

Series logo w/email

--GIVING SLIDE--

Series LOGO

Luke 2:10-12

But the angel said to them {*shepherds*}, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹ Today in the city of David a **Savior** was born for you, who is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**. ¹² This will be the **sign** for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a **manger.**”

Luke is telling us that the **particular circumstances** of Jesus’ birth are significant.

IMAGE: secret service, Marine One, limo

<https://c8.alamy.com/comp/2KFK73Y/a-us-secret-service-agent-provides-security-as-the-president-of-the-united-states-joe-biden-not-shown-prepares-to-depart-new-york-city-new-york-sept-22-2022-on-marine-one-2KFK73Y.jpg>

MANGER IMAGE

<https://livinglutheran.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/istock-1038207940-960x526.jpg>

Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. ² This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴ Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called **Bethlehem**, because he was of the house and family line of David, ⁵ to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was **pregnant**.

Mary & Joseph did not get to **plan** this; they had to **accept** it.

Micah 5:2

But you, O **Bethlehem** ... are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a **ruler of Israel**, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on My behalf.

Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, **the time came** for her to give birth. ⁷ Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a **manger**, because there was **no** guest room available for them.

Galatians 4:4 (NLT)

But when the **right time** came, God sent His Son, born of a woman ...

Titus 1:2

... the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised **before time began**.

Ephesians 3:11

... according to His **eternal purpose** accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

→ **The manger: what seems like the absence of **God's presence** is actually the **sign** of it!**

At some point in our lives, we will be involved in circumstances that seem to contradict the character, promises and purposes of God.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (Luke 1:32-33)

For to us a Child is born, to us **a son is given**; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end

Philippians 2:5b-8

... Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. ⁷ Instead He **emptied** Himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, ⁸ He **humbled** Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.

We are being given a son (His name shall be called ...) and God is emptying Himself.

= letting go of the privileges of divinity AND adding humanity.

{Put these TOGETHER if possible—split screen-one slide}

IMAGE: secret service, Marine One, limo

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Luke 2:15-16

When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the **shepherds** said to one another, "Let's go straight to **Bethlehem** and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the **manger**.

Philippians 2:5a

Make your own **attitude** that of Christ Jesus ... → He **humbled** Himself ...

{one slide; all together}

Humble town

Humble parents

Humble shepherds

Humble God

Matthew 11:25

... Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have **hidden** these things from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to **infants**."

Luke 2:17-20

After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary was **treasuring up** all these things in her heart and meditating on them. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God** for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.

What made Christmas (=promises, purposes, plans of God) possible: **HUMILITY**

{come up ONE at a time}

What will make THIS Christmas better?

→ *Have I humbled myself?*

{one slide}

Humility:

being freed from self-preoccupation but rather first mindful and conscious of God—in His highness AND lowliness—and then seeing ourselves in proper relation to Him.

{one slide; keep space between 2 points}

The manger: absence of God's presence is actually the sign of it

→ **At some point in our lives, we will be involved in circumstances that seem to contradict the character, promises and purposes of God.**

- 1) If it does not look like **God is working** ... well, **He is!**
- 2) Can we believe and trust that our "**not perfect**" is still under God's **purpose**?
- 3) Can we forsake **self-exaltation**?
- 4) Can we forsake **self-pity**?
- 5) Can we ... dare we ask the question ... "**Have I humbled myself?**"