

Beyond His Birth

Life Lessons on Christmas from Those Who Were There

SESSION 4: JESUS - VULNERABLE

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. **Luke 2:1-20 ESV**

Seeking Jesus:

1. THE WISE MEN

They were faithfully seeking Jesus

2. HEROD

He was seeking after his own interests

3. THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM

They were too oppressed and afraid to seek their Savior

4. THE CHIEF PRIESTS

They weren't seeking anything more than what they already had

5. THE SHEPHERDS

They heard, believed, went seeking, experienced Him and shared the good news!

In the visit of the Shepherds we see:

- Jesus came to the Jew first, then to the Gentile
- Jesus came to the humble and ignorant first, then the honorable and learned
- Jesus came to the poor first, then the rich

David Guzik, Pastor and Scholar

The Preeminence of Christ

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. **Colossians 1:15-20 ESV**

Notes:

Discussion Questions:

- What makes you feel vulnerable?
- Do you find it difficult to allow yourself to be vulnerable in front of others? If so, why?
- Being vulnerable allows us to share the Good News of the Gospel in a more authentic way. Share your thoughts on this statement.
- Does the fact that Jesus was born, lived and died in such a vulnerable way impact your relationship with Him? If so, how?

Homework:

In your prayer time, read through Colossians 1:15-20 aloud to Jesus. Replace the words 'He' and 'Him' with 'You', replace 'Himself' with 'Yourself', and replace 'His' with 'Your'. In other words, declare who He is in face-to-face prayer with Him using this Scripture. Think about His greatness and how He made Himself small and vulnerable for you.

Allow yourself to be vulnerable with those you love this season and beyond. Share your heart with them, and lovingly receive as they share theirs with you.

Meditate & Memorize:

Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **Philippians 2:6-7 ESV**

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. **2 Corinthians 4:7 ESV**