



What Child is This? The Gospel of Luke – Luke 2:1-20 December 23-30, 2018

*"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.
Luke 2:1-5 ESV*

Two Certainties in Life - taxes and God's faithfulness - v. 1-5

Caesar Augustus wants a census because he wanted the money.
They head off to be registered from their hometown (lineage)
Bethlehem is prophesied as the city of the coming ruler of Israel - Micah 5:2-5

v. 6-7

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."

Dr. Luke does not give the details of the birth. She gave birth . . . (seems a little odd that the doctor would not give more detail.)

Jesus was the Firstborn - major significance for the firstborn. The blessing of the family was handed down through the firstborn.

Jesus was born to an unwed mother and a carpenter for a dad. Neither would hold much position in the community and were not considered to be very prominent.

The accommodations were less than modest because there was no room for them in a normal place that people would stay while traveling.

Ask, Is there room in your life for Christ? It is still a relevant question. What might be preventing you from having "room" for Christ in your life? What might be preventing you from allowing Him access to your whole life?

Jesus demands every square inch of your life. Not just a room but your entire life. Jesus is okay with seeing our mess.

*"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 2:8-20 ESV*

Humble Accommodations – Mary and Joseph take what place that is actually offered to them. Incredibly lowly and "below" what most would even allow themselves to stay in.

A Humble Arrival – "Jesus arrives with very little fanfare."

A Humble Announcement - from the angels to those who have a pretty lowly occupation. The Lamb of God, born in a stable and His birth is announced by a heavenly host.

A Humble Audience - the shepherds – not the elite of society but ones who knew the importance of loving and caring for the sheep. Many times throughout scripture "we" are considered sheep

“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”

Luke 2:21 ESV

The power is not merely in the name but in the person of Jesus. While His name is important, the strength and power is found in the person of Christ, not just His name.

Ask, do you know what your name means? If you have children, how many of you researched not only various names but what those names mean when naming your children? How did you settle on the name that you did for your child/children?

Here are a few examples from Scripture of the meaning of names.

Adam - first man – “to make”

Eve – first woman – “to breathe or to live”

Abraham – “father of many”

Benjamin – “son of my right hand” – many youngest sons were named Benjamin

Moses - drawn out of the water

Peter - the Rock

Barnabas - Son of encouragement

Jesus - Yahweh saves

What does it mean that “Jesus was the first missionary?” How might Jesus being a missionary effect how we are to go and make disciples?

Celia’s testimony - (Access to Celia’s presentation) <http://achurchforyou.com/sermons/what-child-is-this-week-4/>
(start about the 34 minute mark to watch)

Oswald Mitch quote - “No one deserves to hear the gospel twice when most of the world has not even heard the gospel once.”

Open the Flood Gates

Pray - funding, housing, community, learn the language, courage

Send – others who are able to go

Go – get involved in serving yourself

To learn more or do donate to Celia Schoen, go to ww.wgm.org/cs