

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” – Luke 2:10b-12

Themes:

Verses 1-5 – God uses men in authority for His purposes

Verses 6-7 – God’s plans are not stopped because we have no room for them but we will miss out on God’s blessings

Verses 8-9 – God uses hard working men and women to tell others about Jesus

Verses 10-14 – Because Jesus came to be our Savior, man can great joy and peace with God and no longer has to be afraid

Verses 15-16 – When God reveals something to His children, we need to be obedient to God and respond in haste

Verses 17-20 – When a child of God sees Jesus, we can’t help but worship God and tell others what we know about Jesus

Questions:

* Why do you think that God used an ungodly ruler like Caesar Augustus to accomplish His purpose in moving Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem? Couldn’t God just send an angle to Joseph and tell him to move to Bethlehem?

* How should a child of God view our circumstances that are inconvenient and maybe even difficult and painful?

* What comes to your mind when you read Luke 2:7b, “laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn”? As you examine your life and schedule this Christmas season, is there room for Jesus in your activities and plans?

* According to verses 15-20, what are some of the reactions that the shepherds had to hearing about Jesus and seeing Jesus? What is the reaction of those that heard the shepherds’ testimony?

* How does this encourage you in sharing with others what you have seen and heard about Jesus?

Additional Study:

Verse 1:

* (*Augustus*) – exalted one

* That all the world (*oikoumene*) – the world, Roman world

* Should be registered (*apographō*) – registered for a census

Verse 5:

* His betrothed (*mnesteuō*) – to be promised in marriage, engaged

Verse 7:

* Laid him in a manger (*phatne*) – feeding box, trough

* Inn (*kataluma*) – public shelter – primitive hostel

Verse 8:

* In the same country (*chora*) – region or area

Verse 11:

* A Savior (*sōter*) – deliver, Savior

* Who is Christ (*Christos*) – Messiah, chosen one of Israel

* The Lord (*kurios*) – Lord, emphasizing divinity, God

Verse 12:

* Wrapped in swaddling cloths (*sparganaō*)

* Manger (*phatne*) – manger, feeding trough, box

Verse 13:

* And suddenly (*exaiphnes*) – suddenly w/emphasis on surprise

Verse 13 (Cont):

* A multitude (*plethos*) – A large number from all the angels in heaven

* praising (*aineō*) – to speak of the excellence of a person, object, or event

Verse 15:

* Which the Lord has made known to us (*gnorizō*) – revealed

Verse 16:

* They came with haste (*speudō*) – eager to do what is right quickly

Verse 17:

* They made widely known (*diagnorizō*) – to tell widely and accurately

Verse 18:

* And those who heard it marveled (*ekthaumazō*) – to be in a state of wonder

Verse 19:

* Kept all these things (*ektereō*) – to hold in such a way that you are always thinking about them, front burner

* And pondered them in her heart (*sunballō*)

Verse 20:

* glorifying and praising (*aineō*)