

The Birth of a Savior – Luke

Luke 2:1-21

“The birth of Jesus announced” – December 17, 2017



Introduction

What are you afraid of? What keeps you up at night or leaves you anxious? Fear often creeps in because we lack control. If you're riding in a car racing down a hill and the driver's asleep at the wheel...fear's a natural reaction. Fear asks: who's in charge? Who's calling the shots? Can we trust them? After 400 years of silence and no new word from God, Israel was in the dark. But when Jesus came on the scene, born of a virgin, and placed in a manger, the silence was broken. God's Word became flesh ([John 1:14](#)) and pushed away the darkness that leads to fear. For those who trust in Christ as King, the time for fear has come to an end! To help us trust Him, Luke 2 tells us three things about King Jesus that help us take a step from fear to faith.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

Why do we not need to fear? We can trust Jesus because He is:

- I. The true King serves (2:1-7)
- II. The King is Savior for all (2:8-11)
- III. The King's plans are *never* frustrated (2:12-21)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Luke 2:1-7](#)

When a proud and insecure person's in charge, it can be scary! As they throw their weight around to remind you 'who's in charge,' we don't know *what* they'll do next. As Luke tells the account of Jesus' birth, he highlights a contrast between two rulers: Caesar Augustus and Jesus. 'Augustus' is a title that means *the exalted one*. In ordering the registration of the entire Roman world, he seems like the one in charge, not Jesus, a frail newborn child in very humble beginnings. The irony of the text however tells a different story. 700 years before this day, the prophet Micah foretold the Savior would be born in Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2-5](#)). Augustus wasn't *ultimately* in charge, he was the unwitting tool to get Joseph and Mary where they needed so Jesus would be born in Bethlehem as the *true* King. What does Jesus' humble beginnings say about true greatness? How does knowing God's love and rule set us free to humbly serve others in the same way?

Additional reading: Mark 10:45, Proverbs 14:26, Philippians 2:4-5

2) Read [Luke 2:8-11](#)

When God breaks the news of Jesus coming as the Messiah, the biggest news the world will know, he tells a group of shepherds. Why not a group of dignitaries, politicians, or influencers? As a representative of everyday folk, the lowly and the humble, the shepherds remind us who God comes to. To quiet the shepherds fear, the angel tells them, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." The good news of Christianity, the good news that Jesus has come as Savior is news not for an elite, exclusive group – it is for all people. Anyone who will turn from their sin and trust in Christ can know the great joy that comes from this good news. If it's true that such good news is for *all* people, how should we respond to it? To whom should we take this news as a church?

Additional reading: Matthew 28:19-20, Psalm 67:4, Psalm 96:10

3) Read [Luke 2:12-21](#)

As Mary made plans for her coming firstborn in Nazareth, Caesar Augustus' decree threw a wrench into all her plans. Not only did she and Joseph need to make a 90-mile journey to Bethlehem, then needed to find last minute accommodations for her to give birth in an overly crowded city. Mary was likely distressed by how the events were unfolding – this is not how she pictured caring for the new born Son of God. But when the shepherds show up and tell her what had happened in the field – how an angel told them they'd be here and the child would be in a manger, she must've been greatly encouraged. Though she had *her* plans frustrated, God's plans are *never* frustrated. Where have you experienced frustration or broken dreams in *your* life? That fact that Jesus is King doesn't mean we will have a problem free life, but we can trust the One who *is* in charge. Take some time to talk to God about your disappointments and frustrations. As you pray, ask Him to help you trust Him with your life and your loved ones.

Additional reading: Psalm 23, Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:28

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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