

The Birth Of The Eternal Savior Luke 2:1-20

Matthew 1:21 Page #957

Matthew 25:31-34 Page #988

John 17:24-26 Page #1082

Ephesians 1:3-7 Page #1169

Hebrews 4:1-3 Page #1198

Hebrews 13:20 Page #1207

I. Jesus' birth fulfilled God's promise Vs. 1-7

II. Jesus' manifestation brings great joy Vs. 8-14

Acts 16:22

III. Jesus' presence means the Good News is to be shared Vs. 15-20

Questions for this week:

I. For Starters:

1. Do you like the Christmas season? Why or why not?
2. Mark Twain said "familiarity breeds contempt". Have you grown too familiar with just hearing the Christmas story? Explain.

II. Overview of Scripture

1. Read Luke 2:1-20. What moves you as you reread this story?
2. Who made a decree for a world wide census and why? Luke 2:1, Micah 5:2 & Proverbs 21:1
3. What did the census require of everyone? Vs 3

4. Someone might say that Joseph should not have taken Mary on this journey while she was pregnant. She probably had to go because she also would be taxed, but she knew the prophecy about her son. What does her going say about her? (see Luke 1:37-38)
5. What "natural means" did God have in place to help get Joseph and Mary where He wanted them and what does this say about God's work in our life? Vs 4
6. How does a person get to the point that he or she could say constantly, "Lord, I am your bonds slave, let it be according to Your word"?
7. Reading Luke 2:5-7, what details do we pick up about this family and the birth?
8. After moving a Roman Emperor to make a decree to get Joseph and Mary back to Bethlehem to fulfill prophecy, why did God not clear a place in the inn for them? Luke 2:7 and 2 Corinthians 8:9
9. What time did the angels appear to the shepherds and how many did they see at first? 8-9
10. How many angels were there praising God and what affect do you think this had on the shepherds? 13
11. What does true faith lead one to do? 15-17
12. Are you continually ready & willing to share the "good news" with others by your life and your words?

John Piper writes, *The Calvary road begins with a "No Vacancy" sign in Bethlehem and ends with the spitting and scoffing and the cross in Jerusalem. And we must not forget that he said: "He who would come after me must deny himself and take up his cross." We join him on the Calvary road and hear him say: "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you"* (John 15:20).

III. Growing deeper

1. Review Sunday's message with someone.
2. How can you celebrate this Christmas season in a way that would show to others that Christ is your greatest treasure?
3. Pray that you would have an opportunity to share the good news of Christ with one person this Christmas season.