

Sunday - December 6, 2020

Large Lessons in Small Places

Dr. Jim Cooley, First Baptist Birmingham

Today's Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

¹ And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

THERE WAS A SMALL TOWN

- Bethlehem was not on the way to anywhere, and it was not on anybody's list to visit
- Some of the people who lived there must have wondered if God had forgotten them
- *"But you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose going forth are from of old, from everlasting."* Micah 5:2-3
- *"She brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger."* Luke 2:7
- At the most unexpected time, in the most unexpected way, the Messiah arrived
- **God Always Keeps His Promises**
 - He kept His promises to Mary, to Joseph, to Bethlehem, and to the world
 - God will keep His promises to you!

THERE WAS A SMALL MANGER

- Was any child ever born in more humble surroundings than the Son of God?
- Luke explained why Jesus was born in such a place; "There was no room in the inn"

- Jesus Christ will be found in Places where He is Welcomed
 - Some won't make room
 - Some don't have room
 - Some neglect to find room
- Make room in your life for Jesus

THERE WAS AN ORDINARY HILLSIDE

- Could there have been a more unlikely cast of characters to be invited to become the first witnesses to the birth of a King than those nameless, faceless shepherds?
- *"Born to you this day, in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11*
- There was something special about these men and their flocks
- The men who were guarding their flocks by night were likely guarding lambs who would be used as sacrifices to seek God's forgiveness and blessing
- Jesus would become the perfect Lamb of God, Who would take away the sins of the world
- **Born to You this Day a Savior. He is Christ the Lord**
- *"Good news of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10*
- There has never been a person living for whom Jesus was not born to save
- There is nobody whose sin is not covered by the blood of the Lamb of God