



DECEMBER 22, 2024

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The First Christmas

Luke 2:1-20

I. The Birth of the Messiah (vv. 1-7)

A. The Messiah must be born in _____ (vv. 1-4a)
[Mic. 5:2; Lk. 2:11; Jn. 7:40-42; Matt. 2:1, 5-6]

B. The Messiah must be born in the family of _____ (vv. 4b-5)
[2 Sam. 7:12-13; Matt. 9:27; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:19]

C. The Messiah was born in a world where there was _____ (vv. 6-7)
[Mk. 6:1-6; Lk. 4:28-30; Psa. 113:3]

II. The Biggest Baby Announcement Ever Made (vv. 8-14)

A. The announcement came to the _____ people (vv. 8-9)
[Ex. 3:1; 1 Sam. 16:11-13; Psa. 80:1; Isa. 40:11; Dan. 8:15-18; Matt. 28:2-4; Rev. 1:17]

B. The announcement was for the joy of _____ people (v. 10)
[Gen. 12:1-3; Eph. 2:11-13]

C. The announcement shows the _____ between earthly poverty and heavenly riches (vv. 11-14) [Matt. 1:21; Heb. 1:1-2; Heb. 3:1; Rev. 17:14; Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 5:1]

III. The Believing Shepherds Come (vv. 15-20)

A. The shepherds _____ each other (v. 15) [Acts 4:19-20]

B. The shepherds _____ in a hurry (v. 16)
[Matt. 11:28-30; Jn. 6:37, 44; 7:37]

C. The shepherds _____ their experience (vv. 17-19) [Lk. 2:34-35, 51]

D. The shepherds _____ praising God (v. 20) [Lk. 7:16; 10:17]

TAKE HOME

- _____ God's Word as you seek to grow in wisdom
- _____ the Gospel with someone this season
- _____ more in the Messiah who was given than the earthly gifts you will receive

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placeritachurch.com.

1. What temptations do you face that could allow commercialism to consume your Christmas? How do you enjoy the season without losing sight of Jesus?

2. Read Luke 2:1-4a. Now look at Micah 5:2; John 7:40-42; and Matt. 2:1, 5-6. Why is it so important to know that the Christ was to be born in Bethlehem?

3. Read Luke 2:4b-5. Now look at 2 Sam. 7:12-13. What is the 2 Samuel passage known as? Which covenant is it highlighting? What is the significance of this as we reflect on Luke 2?

4. Read Luke 2:6-7. How does the fact that there was no room in the inn in Bethlehem affect you as you examine our world today? Is there room for Jesus in our culture? Please discuss.

5. Read Luke 2:8-14. What is the significance of this passage? Discuss some of the things that the sermon outline points out. Which one of those sub-points did you think was the most interesting? Why?

6. Read Luke 2:15-21. Why do you think the angels chose to come and make this announcement to the shepherds? Why wasn’t the announcement made in the town square of Bethlehem? Talk about what you learned by examining what we read about the shepherds that very night.

7. Look at the take home points. How can you make this Christmas a little more like the first Christmas?

Can This Be Christmas

(by M. R. DeHaan)

I leap by faith across the years
To that great day when He appears
The second time, to rule and reign,
To end all sorrow, death, and pain.

In endless bliss we then shall dwell
With Him who saved our souls from hell,
And worship Christ -- not Christmas!