

Advent

LESSON 3 :: The Presence of Love

Biblical Passage: Luke 2:1-20

Day 1:

- Luke 2:1-3 "Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city." (NASB)
- The gospel of Luke provides most of the historical evidence of Jesus' life.
- All who inhabited the world = all areas ruled by Rome
- The census was taken for the purpose of taxation.

Day 2:

- Luke 2:4-5 "Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child." (NASB)
- The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem is a 90-mile uphill journey.
- Joseph and Mary were married at this point.
- It is estimated that this journey took 4-5 days to complete.

Day 3:

- Luke 2:6-7 "While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (NASB)
- Bethlehem would have been overcrowded due to the census.
- Jesus' birth in a stable suggests Mary and Joseph lived in poverty.
- God allowed these first moments of Jesus' life to show the presence of His love for the poor and needy.

Day 4:

- Luke 2:8-12 "In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (NASB)
- God's choice of shepherds to announce the birth of Christ shows His love for the outcast and those in need of salvation.
- Joy = state of gladness
- Christ is fully human and He is fully God.

Day 5:

- Luke 2:13-14 "And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (NASB)
- Host = army
- Jesus allows humanity to experience peace with God.
- This peace is available to all who accept salvation through faith in Jesus.

Day 6:

- Luke 2:15-16 "When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger." (NASB)
- The shepherds went to see Jesus right away.
- What is the most exciting news you've ever gotten? #LBSAdvent3
- When have you rushed to see something exciting? #LBSAdvent3

Day 7:

- Luke 2:17-20 "When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them." (NASB)
- The shepherds were so excited that they went away telling anyone who would listen.
- What is the most unbelievable true thing you've ever heard? #LBSAdvent3
- Mary continued to be amazed by everything surrounding the birth of her Son.