



HOME FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



TIP: Remember to begin and end with prayer, as well as plant your seed offering. It may be helpful to have someone read the scriptures in the King James Version (KJV) and another the Amplified (AMP) version for better understanding.

Date: December 7, 2022

Topic: **Week 2: Birthplace, The Undesirable**

Introduction: As the birth of Jesus begins to unfold in the 2nd Chapter of Luke, more unpredictable events continued to occur. Unbeknown to Joseph, who was soon to be married to Mary, Caesar Augustus the Roman Emperor decided to do a census of the whole Roman Empire. This sporadic event led Joseph and Mary on the road to Bethlehem, which was in the plan of God and prophesied by the Prophet Micah 700 years before Christ's birth. While Bethlehem was somewhat more prominent than Nazareth, it could not be compared to the richness of the city of Rome. Rome was lively, full of people, beautiful palaces, and buildings. Surely, one would think that the son of God was more than worthy to be born in one of the most desirable cities in the land. However, just as Mary was the unexpected one to carry His son, God's choice for the birthplace of Jesus would be considered undesirable and unfit for a King. Yet, God shows that His plan for man, is greater than earthly expectations and accommodations.



Read: Luke 2:1-7



Discuss: *Rome was the most prominent city in this part of the world at this time. It was full of amazing architectural structures, great buildings and public squares, arenas, and palaces. It was packed with people and was a true sight to see. Because of its prominence, this would have been a great place for a King to call his place of birth.*

- As you read Luke 2:1-3, what occurred (which was not usual) that sent Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem? Do you think this was by chance? *Read Micah 5:2*
- If God were most concerned about having an elaborate display of Jesus birth, why would it have made sense to have Jesus born in Rome? What would've been some of the pros of Jesus being born in Rome?

Again, we can see that God was clearly not motivated by making a spectacle of Jesus' birth. He wasn't motivated by making the biggest show possible. Instead, He sent Joseph and Mary away from the high palaces to a lowly structure known as a stable.

- In what city was Jesus born? Where did His actual birth take place?
- Based on Luke 2:6-7, there was no room in the inn (probably because many people were traveling back to their homes to register), so Joseph and Mary had no choice in their accommodations. However, why would it be

considered an undesirable place for a woman to give birth? Who lives in a stable?

- Why do you think God's plan called for Jesus to be born in such humble surroundings? *Read Zechariah 4:10 (first clause) and Mark 9:35*
- Have you ever experienced living in an undesirable situation when you felt like you were worthy of better? What was it like and what did you learn from it?

Takeaway: It was not by chance that right before Jesus' birth Joseph and Mary had to make the trip back to Bethlehem (Joseph's birthplace). This trip sent them away from the glamour and glitz of the city of Rome, to a place that surely could not compete. What could've have been 5-star accommodations for a King, turned out to be a place fit for animals and therefore inhabitable by human standards. Yet, this was all in the plan of God—for **HE** makes great...the small, the least, the last, and the undesirable. "For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation (Psalm 149:4)."

If you have additional questions or comments that you would like to submit regarding tonight's topic, please submit them via email to one of our ministers at: info@godswaywoc.org.

****Remember to share Christ with someone else.****