

J.J.

THE REASON FOR THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Luke 2:1-11

Luke 2: ¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

⁴Joseph 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,

⁵in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

⁷And 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.

⁸In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

¹⁰But 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;

¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

PRAY

INTRODUCTION :

I found these Christmas Knock Knock Jokes

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Honda. Honda who?

Honda first day of Christmas my true love sent to me...

Knock, knock! Who's there?

Anna. Anna who?

Anna partridge in a pear tree.

There's a Filipino version for this.

Knock, knock. Who's there?

Tuna Century. Tuna Century who?

On the first day of Christmas may Tuna Century...

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Mary.
Mary who?
Mary Christmas!

The previous Sunday we talked about the Meaning of Christmas.

We shared to you by God's grace, that the meaning of CHRISTMAS is TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR KING

CHRISTOS – means “Anointed One” – Priest, Prophet, KING

Take away CHRIST from Christmas, then it has no meaning at all.

TODAY, by God's grace, we're going to talk about the Reason why we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our King.

Before we discuss the reason for the celebration...I want you to focus on verse 1-3

Luke 2: ¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

If there was CNN, Fox, CTV or social media like Facebook, Twitter... that would be the big news during that time.

Sample : Facebook... people in their camels having selfies...saying “On the way to Judea to register” or people taking photos with their camels and etc.
There will be hashtags then, #census #feedingthecamel

But little did they know that an even bigger news is about to happen

*¹¹for today in the city of David **there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.***

And only a few people learned about it.

Later, by God's grace, I will show you the application of this.

- I. A PROMISE HAS BEEN FULFILLED
- II. THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE CELEBRATION
- III. THE PERSON CELEBRATED

I. A PROMISE HAS BEEN FULFILLED

¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Note : It gives you joy when a promise has been fulfilled.

Ice-breaker : When I promise you that this sermon will finish in 10 minutes, you will be happy and you will really be happy if it does happen. But I'm not promising.

Note : We have to remember that the Jews were waiting for the Messiah because it was promised in the Old Testament. But little did they know that the promise had already been fulfilled that night. But the problem is they were so busy and focused on other things. We are all guilty of that. We're so busy and focused on the task at hand that we forget to see things from a supernatural point of view.

¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born

***Where is the city of David?** Bethlehem

How do we know?

1 Samuel 16 : ¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

Note : Jesse is the father of David

***Look : Even the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem was prophesied**

*Micah 5: ² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times."*

Earlier, I talked about the biggest news during that time was the census.

Luke 2: ¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

LOOK AT GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY HERE. GOD HAS ORDAINED THIS SO THAT HIS SON WILL BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM ACCORDING TO PROPHECY. WHY?

⁴Joseph 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, was with child. ⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁵in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and

IMPORTANT NOTE : Why would Joseph and Mary take an arduous trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem at a time when Mary is about to give birth? There's no reason they would do that....UNLESS, AN OPPRESSIVE AND DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENT TELLS THEM TO DO SO.

Nowadays, the biggest news is the war in the Middle East. But we'll never know, that there is a much bigger news that is happening that people might not even see that will fulfill God's promise – His return. People see the oppression but to those who know the truth, what we see is our Lord fulfilling His promise to return soon.

Personal Application : In your life, you may never understand why things are happening, specially if there's discomfort or inconvenience or suffering or sickness BUT always remember that GOD CAN USE EVEN THE MOST CRUEL OR EVIL OR UNFAIR THINGS IN OUR LIFE TO FULFILL HIS GOOD AND HOLY PURPOSE.

PLAY SONG I love this lyrics “Blessings” from Laura Story

We pray for blessings
We pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering
All the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love is way too much to give us lesser things

'Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not our home

I LOVE THE LAST PART OF THE LYRICS :
What if my greatest disappointments
Or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy

What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disguise

Application : The reason we celebrate Christmas is because it reminds us that GOD IS USING EVEN the trials, challenges and inconvenience TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE.

And one of the promises of our Lord is in Hebrews 13

"Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you." (Hindi kita iiwanan...hindi kita pababayaan)

Why do we know that? When God was telling Israel who is this Messiah that He is sending, He said this...

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Ref to Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23

Literal translation of Immanuel : with us is God (kasama natin ang Dios)

II. THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE CELEBRATION

*¹¹for today in the city of David there **has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.***

***The purpose why Jesus was born is in order to save us.**

*Matthew 1 : ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him **the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.**"*

Etymology : Jesus - anglicized; in Greek it's "ieshua" coming from the Hebrew word "Yehoshuah" – where we get the word "Joshua" which means "God saves!"

In short : Even in how our Lord is named when He became man, it already revealed the purpose of God in our lives

Please remember that : That's the purpose why Jesus was born, in order to save us from sin. Why is this is so important?

What will He save us from? because he will save his people from their sins.

***WHY IS THIS Important : WHAT DID SIN DO?**

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Note : The meaning of death is separation. **We are separated from God because of sin.**

***Evangelistic :** To those who are here who do not know Christ, the reason you feel empty inside is because you are separated from God.

Illustration : There's this little boy who saw this toy in the internet. wanted to buy this nice toy he saw in the internet. He worked hard for it and when he had the money, bought it online...waited for days for the box to arrive. Finally the box arrives and he was so excited that the box is there, until he finally opens the box... it's empty...IT'S EMPTY.

That's what the devil does... he sells us this idea, that being rich, being popular will make them happy and they are excited about the idea... dreams about it, works hard about it until the box comes.... And they find it's empty...it's empty!!!

Video : Richest man in Singapore Reveals the Truth.

Quote : *"I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer."* - Jim Carrey.

LOOK AT THE PROMISE OF JESUS CHRIST!!!

John 10: 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

How do we have this life????

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Important : The greatest gift that has been given to you was done two thousand years ago when Jesus died for you and now we have access to eternal life.

We have to remember that we have transgressed a holy, holy, holy God and because of that we deserve to go to hell. But because of love... SO MUCH LOVE IN JOHN 3:16
He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Remember, the purpose of Christmas is for God to become man to die on the cross for our sins.

And because of this, to those who believe, we are saved. AND WHO IS THIS GOD WHO BECAME MAN? WHO IS THIS PERSON WE ARE CELEBRATING?

III. THE PERSON BEING CELEBRATED

*¹¹for today in the city of David there has been **born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.***

Etymology :

Christ "Christos" Anointed One, Messiah
Lord, `kyrios` Lord...one who rules or reigns

We talked about this last week but let me show you something by God's grace.

***In the book of Daniel, He saw the coming about the Anointed One**

*Daniel 9 : ²⁵ "Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, **the ruler**, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.*

***Who is this Anointed One**

Daniel 7 : ¹³ "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

***Look at who Christ is**

Luke 1: ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

In short : The person we are celebrating during Christmas IS GOD HIMSELF WHO IS THE RULER FOREVER.

WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT CHRISTMAS REMINDS US THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN AND ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HIM...

WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...OUR LORD JESUS IS IN CONTROL.

*Isaiah 9: 6 For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.*

This is BOTH THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS AND THE REASON WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.

The Birth of our God-King who reigns forever and ever.

That's WHY NO MATTER WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE OR IN THIS WORLD?

WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY!!! OUR LORD JESUS IS ON HIS THRONE AND IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING. WE HAVE A KING WHO IS LORD OF ALL.

VIDEO : THE KING HAS ONE MORE MOVE

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

S.G.D.