

**The Miraculous Birth**  
**Series: Luke**  
**December 17, 2017**      **Pastor Bill Bump**

Our goal for the Jesus birth story should be that familiarity deepens our appreciation.

The birth of Jesus brings change into the lives of those who get to know Him.

1. Joseph moved from tension to peace.

*Luke 2:1-5 <sup>1</sup> At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup> And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.*

What a tense, frustrating experience this must have been for Joseph, who was supposed to be in charge.

To Joseph, it looked like everything was coming unraveled, but to God, everything was unfolding just the way He had planned.

2. Mary moved from pain to contentment.

*Luke 2:6-7 <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.*

The first time the word pain is used in the Bible, it is used in reference to childbearing.

*Genesis 3:16a Then he said to the woman, "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth."*

In verse 7, Mary's pain gave way to contentment.

3. The shepherds moved from fear to faith.

Luke 2:8-16 <sup>8</sup> That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

The angels brought a message of hope. The Savior of the world had been born in Bethlehem.

The angels' appearance and message motivated the shepherds to take action.

4. By responding to the message, the shepherds experienced the most significant event of their lives.

Luke 2:17-20 <sup>17</sup> After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. <sup>18</sup> All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, <sup>19</sup> but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

When a person really experiences God in their life and He begins to make a difference, they cannot help but speak about they have seen and heard.

## Conclusion

The challenge for us is to experience the dramatic birth of Jesus in our lives, then go back to the routine of our job, school, and family and continue day-by-day to glorify God.

The key for us when we hear the old, old story again is to remember that it's true. The God of the universe was born in Bethlehem, lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. And, when we invite Him into our life, He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life.