

ROMANS
Lesson 59– December 22, 2013

**/Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher**

Good Morning! Welcome to Barah Ministries...a Christian Church.

Let's begin our Christmas celebration with a song...feel free to sing along...

*/CHRISTMAS SONG
Joy to the World
Nat King Cole*

/"JOY TO THE WORLD"

Joy to the world
The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing\

/"JOY TO THE WORLD"

Joy to the earth
The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy\

/"JOY TO THE WORLD"

He rules the earth
With truth and grace

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And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, and wonders of His love.\

Yes...God's love is a wonder to us... His unconditional love for us. Right now, it has to provide you with great comfort that God loves you unconditionally...there is nothing you can do to make Him love you more...and there is no sin you can commit that would make Him love you less. He has always loved you from the beginning...He has had your name personally in mind forever...and there never will be a time when He doesn't have your name in His mind.

Wherever you are in this glorious world in which we live, I hope you enjoy this celebration of the birth of the unique Person of the universe, the One who is called by many titles...the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Alpha and the Omega, which means the beginning and the ending...the great "I AM," the Savior of the World...He is the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah, Chapter 9, Verse 6 says...

/ISA 9:6

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah, Chapter 7, Verse 14 says...

/ISA 7:14

*"Therefore the Lord (Adonai...the God of heaven) Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and (she will) bear a son, and she will call His name Emmanuel." *

/CHRISTMAS SONG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Enya\

It is impossible at this time of the year to contain the joy we believers in Christ feel in our hearts when we stop to think deeply about what God the

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Father did for us by sending His Son...turn in your bibles to Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 1...He doesn't just tell us that He loves us unconditionally...He shows us...

/EPH 2:1

*And you (all mankind at physical birth) were (spiritually dead) dead in (the sphere of spiritual death because of) your trespasses and sins... *

Trespasses and sins are deliberate acts of unrighteousness...things outside of God's plan for His creatures...

/EPH 2:2

*...in which you formerly walked (as a lifestyle like all unbelievers) according to the course (organized curriculum) of this world (Satan's system of thought), according to the (guidance of the) prince of the power of the air (Satan...guidance to oppose all the relates to God), (according to the guidance) of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (a spirit of rejection of God and His salvation offer). *

/EPH 2:3

*Among them we too all (me, Paul, and all the believing Jews) formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging (in) the desires of the flesh and (in the desires) of the mind, and were by (the influence of the sovereign sin) nature children of wrath (destined for the Lake of Fire), even as the rest (the Gentiles were destined for the Lake of Fire). *

The first three verses do not paint a great picture of the human condition at physical birth...it's not your fault, but it is your circumstance...when we were spiritually dead we had no relationship with God and there was nothing we could do about it in our own human power...in the flesh...as unbelievers we were on the wrong side of a barrier, without a relationship with God, and we were helpless and hopeless to do anything about it...Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 4...

/EPH 2:4

*(And you'd be toast...) BUT God (the Father), being rich in mercy, because of His great (seeking the highest and best...unconditional) love with which He loved us (all creatures)... *

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/EPH 2:5

...EVEN (and especially) when we were (spiritually) dead in our transgressions (and sins), made us (spiritually) alive together with (and in union with) Christ (by grace you have been saved)...

We have a living God who makes us spiritually alive when we request spiritual life...at that moment when we realize that we are spiritually dead and helpless and hopeless to get ourselves out of the prison of spiritual death...

/EPH 2:6

...and (God the Father) raised us up (in resurrection) with Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), and (God the Father) seated us with Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) in (session in) the heavenly places in (union with) Christ Jesus...

/EPH 2:7

...so that in the ages to come He (God the Father) might show (with this evidence) the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us (who are) in (union with) Christ Jesus.

/EPH 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith (alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone); and that (grace and faith and salvation is) not (from the source) of yourselves, it is the gift of God (to you)...

/EPH 2:9

...not as a result of (your) works, so that no one may (be in a position to) boast.

/EPH 2:10

For we are HIS workmanship, created in (union with) Christ Jesus for good works, which (good works) God (the Father) prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

God the Father made us believers spiritually alive, He placed us into union with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, He gave us the Zoe Life...the resurrection life...the eternal life...and by position, right now, we are set apart to be resurrected from the dead...and the actual resurrection will

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happen at a future time...God the Father will resurrect us from the dead...and God the Father has seated us at His right hand of His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ...

Christmas, from God's point of view, is a time for you to RECEIVE...so as the SOURCE of all blessing, God GAVE to you, His intended RECIPIENTS the greatest gift of all...John, Chapter 3, Verses 16 to 18...

/JOH 3:16

“For God (the Father) so (unconditionally) loved the world (all mankind so much), that He gave His only begotten (uniquely born) Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), that who(so)ever believes in Him shall not perish, but (instead shall) have eternal life.”

/JOH 3:17

“For God (the Father) did not send the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved (delivered) through Him.”

/JOH 3:18

“He who believes in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten (uniquely born) Son of God.”

The Lord Jesus Christ does not delight in the choice of unbelievers to have nothing to do with Him. It is God's will that everyone be saved, and that everyone live with Him in heaven forever...Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9 says...

/2PE 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise (of deliverance to salvation), as some count slowness (as some accuse Him of), but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (a change of mind about Christ).\

/CHRISTMAS SONG

Mary Did You Know

Sung by June Murphy\

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Mary's Baby Boy provided a "so great" salvation, a deliverance for all Creatures...Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8 says...

/ROM 5:8

But God (the Father) demonstrates His own (unconditional) love toward us (all mankind), in that while we were yet sinners, (the Lord Jesus) Christ died (as a substitute) for us.

First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22 says...

/1CO 15:22

For as in (union with) Adam (at physical birth) all (mankind) die (spiritually), so also in (union with) Christ all will be made (spiritually) alive (by being given the resurrection life).

Galatians, Chapter 4, Verses 4 and 5 say...

/GAL 4:4

But when the fullness of the time came (after the Mosaic law made it clear that all of us do not have a righteousness of our own), God (the Father) sent forth His Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), born of a woman, born under the Law...

Merry Christmas! It is this fact that we celebrate today! Why did God the Father do this for us?

/GAL 4:5

...so that He might redeem (purchase from slavery...release from prison) those who were under the (tyranny of the Mosaic) Law, that we might (as a result of this freeing experience) receive the adoption as (adult) sons.

As believers in Christ we are adult sons of the living God! Hebrews, Chapter 2, Verse 9...

/HEB 2:9

But we do see Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace (gift) of God (the Father) He (the Lord Jesus Christ) might taste death for everyone.

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Turn to John, Chapter 1, Verse 9...

/JOH 1:9

There was the true Light (the Lord Jesus Christ) which, (by) coming into the world (at the first advent...also known as the Incarnation), enlightens every man (concerning the requirement for salvation).

All God asks of us is this...BELIEVE...have confidence in My Person...BELIEVE...do everything I say...BELIEVE...John, Chapter 1, Verse 10...

/JOH 1:10

He (the Lord Jesus Christ) was in the world, and the world was made through Him (He is the CREATOR), and the world (Satan's minions) did not know Him (because they rejected Him even though they knew Him).

/JOH 1:11

He came to His own (the Jews), and those who were His own did not receive Him (literally...they gave Him no welcome...they rejected Him as Messiah, in spite of seeing every evidence pointing to His Messiahship).

This is heartbreaking...but here's the good news...

/JOH 1:12

But as many as received Him (whosoever), to them He (the Lord Jesus Christ) gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name...

/JOH 1:13

...who were born, not of blood (human lineage) nor (were they born simply) of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but (they were born again) of (the will of) God.

That makes me want to jump up and down like a Pentecostal! First Timothy, Chapter 1, Verses 15 to 17 say...

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/1TI 1:15

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I (Paul) am foremost of all.

/1TI 1:16

Yet for this reason (that I am the foremost of all sinners) I found mercy (from God), so that in me as the foremost (sinner), Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

That makes me want to jump up and down like a Pentecostal!

/1TI 1:17

Now to the King (of kings and Lord of lords...to the) eternal, immortal, invisible, the (one and) only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

So today we celebrate the birthday of the God-Man...we celebrate our rebirth from the tyranny and our freedom from the slavery of spiritual death and religion and legalism...we celebrate the birth of a Person of impact at Christmas...the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

/PRAYER

Let us pray...

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

Thank You for sending Your Son to be the Savior of all mankind...

Thank You for the fact that You GAVE up Your Son on our behalf...

Thank You for the rich set of blessings You have given us from Your glorious stash of riches...

Thank You for placing us all in the sphere of Your grace...

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Help us to celebrate the God-Man, the Person of impact on His birthday...

Summon the attention of the whole world to Your Son at this amazing time of year...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...
Amen.

Take a five-minute break...

/BREAK

The Christmas Song
Nat King Cole\

Welcome back...

/ANNOUNCEMENT

No face-to-face teaching next week\

Now let's take the offering. Welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall.

/TODAY'S OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

Even though we are sanctioned by God to charge for the many things we provide so you can worship God, we choose not to exercise our right. Therefore no price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.\

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/OFFERING VERSE

MAT 7:7

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

/Remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

2CO 9:7

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver.

/OFFERING

Give Thanks

/TODAY’S STUDY

The God-Man’s Impact on People Because of His Birth

Turn in your bibles to Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verse 1...let’s look at the Old Testament prediction of the Lord Jesus Christ’s birth...this is Isaiah’s announcement to the Jews that their deliverer is coming...the Jews were in captivity...in the slave market...yet God dealt with His people the way He always does...he delivered them with His very Person...and this is the announcement...as we look at...

/The God-Man’s Impact on the World

ISA 40:1

“Comfort, O comfort (is coming to) My people (Israel),” says your God.

/ISA 40:2

“Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her (in captivity), that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

/ISA 40:3

A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness (roll out the red carpet for Him); make smooth in the desert a highway for our God (the Messiah...the Lord Jesus Christ...the deliverer).”

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/ISA 40:4

“Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; and let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley...”

/ISA 40:5

“Then the glory of the Lord (Jesus Christ) will be revealed (He will take on the form of true humanity and tabernacle among us), and all flesh will see it (His glory) together; for the mouth of the Lord (through His Word) has spoken.”

/ISA 40:6

A voice says, “Call out.” Then he answered, “What shall I call out?” (Call out that) All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

/ISA 40:7

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass (people are temporary).

/ISA 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever (it is permanent).

/ISA 40:9

(To the messenger...) Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it (your voice) up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah (in captivity), “Here is your God (the Messiah...Emmanuel)!”

/ISA 40:10

Behold, the Lord God will come with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense (compensation is) before Him.

/ISA 40:11

Like a shepherd He (the Lord Jesus Christ...the deliverer) will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

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The God-Man's impact on the world is to bring it freedom from captivity...

/GAL 5:1

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm (in the freedom) and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

The Lord keeps His promise to the Jewish race in spite of their rejection of Him! What a great privilege for the Jews, and for us believers in Christ that we have a deliverer in the Lord, a Great Shepherd who tends to us as if we are lambs...who tends us as if we are ewes...who knows we must be handled with unconditional and loving care...

/CHRISTMAS SONG

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Nat King Cole\

Now let's take a tour of the New Testament and see the lives on which the Lord Jesus Christ has impact at His birth. Because the Christmas story is a story of the God-Man's impact.

What was the God Man's impact on the life of Joseph, His human father? Turn in your bibles to Matthew, Chapter 1, Verse 18...

/The God-Man's Impact on Joseph

MAT 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed (engaged) to Joseph, before they came together (before the had sexual intercourse) she was found to be with child (pregnant) by the (agency of God the) Holy Spirit.

/MAT 1:19

And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man (a believer in Christ) and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away (divorce her) secretly.

/MAT 1:20

But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take

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Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the (agency of God the) Holy Spirit.”

/MAT 1:21

“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

/MAT 1:22

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet (Isaiah...in Isaiah 7:14)...

/MAT 1:23

“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”

/MAT 1:24

And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife...

/MAT 1:25

...but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he (Joseph) called His name Jesus.

The God-Man’s impact on Joseph called for a divine response of faith and obedience in the face of a circumstance that calls for a human response of doubt and disobedience.

/CHRISTMAS SONG

A Baby Changes Everything

Sung by June Murphy

Turn in your bibles to Luke, Chapter 1, Verse 26...

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/The God-Man’s Impact on Mary

LUK 1:26

*Now in the sixth month (of Elizabeth’s pregnancy) the angel Gabriel (the Lord’s messenger angel) was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth... *

/LUK 1:27

*...to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of (King) David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. *

/LUK 1:28

*And coming in, he (Gabriel) said to her (Mary), “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” *

“Greetings favored one” is best translated... “Hello to you Mary, a believer in Christ who is in the sphere of God’s grace!” It’s a greeting that could be made to any believer in Christ. Mary was not more special in God’s eyes than you are special to Him.

/LUK 1:29

*But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. *

/LUK 1:30

*The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God (you are in the sphere of God’s grace).” *

/LUK 1:31

*“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.” *

/LUK 1:32

*“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God (the Father) will give Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) the throne of His father David...” *

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/LUK 1:33

“...and He (the Lord Jesus Christ) will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

Mary, not getting caught up in the hoopla of the moment, stayed focused on this incredible request.

/LUK 1:34

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”

/LUK 1:35

The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.”

/LUK 1:36

“And behold, even your relative (formerly barren) Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month (of pregnancy).”

/LUK 1:37

“For nothing will be impossible with God.”

/LUK 1:38

And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The God-Man’s impact on Mary called for a divine response of faith and obedience in the face of a circumstance that calls for a human response of doubt and disobedience. Luke, Chapter 1, Verse 39...

/The God-Man’s Impact on Elizabeth

/LUK 1:39

*Now at this time (right after the angel’s departure) Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah... *

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/LUK 1:40

...and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

/LUK 1:41

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby (John the Baptist) leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

/LUK 1:42

And she (Elizabeth) cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

/LUK 1:43

"And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?"

/LUK 1:44

*"For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy." *

/LUK 1:45

*"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord." *

/LUK 1:46

*And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord..." *

/LUK 1:47

And my spirit has rejoiced in (the) God (who is) my Savior (the Lord Jesus Christ).

/LUK 1:48

*"For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed." *

/LUK 1:49

*"For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name." *

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/LUK 1:50

“AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR (respect) HIM.”

/LUK 1:51

“He (the Lord Jesus Christ) has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.”

/LUK 1:52

“He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble.”

/LUK 1:53

“HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; and sent away the rich empty-handed.”

/LUK 1:54

“He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy...”

/LUK 1:55

As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and (to) his descendants forever.”

/LUK 1:56

And Mary stayed with her (Elizabeth) about three months (until she had the baby), and then returned to her home.

The God-Man’s impact on Elizabeth, a sixty-year-old woman who was thought to be barren, called for a divine response of faith and obedience in the face of a circumstance that calls for a human response of doubt and disobedience. Luke, Chapter 2, Verse 1...

/The God-Man’s Impact on the Shepherds

LUK 2:1

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

/LUK 2:2

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

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/LUK 2:3

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

/LUK 2:4

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...

/LUK 2:5

...in order to register (for the census) along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child (pregnant).

/LUK 2:6

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

/LUK 2:7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths (sparganoo), and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

He was wrapped with strips, romanticized as “swaddling clothes,” which were actually the cloths used to wrap a mangled corpse. From His birth, the Lord was identified with His death.

/LUK 2:8

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

/LUK 2:9

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

/LUK 2:10

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...”

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/LUK 2:11

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

/LUK 2:12

“This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

/LUK 2:13

*And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying... *

/LUK 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

/LUK 2:15

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.”

/LUK 2:16

So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

/LUK 2:17

When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

/LUK 2:18

And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

/LUK 2:19

But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

/LUK 2:20

The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

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The God-Man’s impact on the shepherds is that they did something shepherds never do...they left their sheep...this event called for a divine response of faith and obedience in the face of a circumstance that calls for a human response of doubt and disobedience.

/CHRISTMAS SONG
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Nat King Cole\

Turn to Matthew, Chapter 2, Verse 1...

/The God-Man’s Impact on the Magi

MAT 2:1
*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi (astronomers) from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying... *

/MAT 2:2
*“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” *

The God-Man’s impact on the Magi caused them to trust the stars...it called for a divine response of faith and obedience in the face of a circumstance that calls for a human response of doubt and disobedience.

/The God-Man’s Impact on Herod

MAT 2:3
*When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him (was troubled). *

/MAT 2:4
*Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. *

He connected what the Magi were saying to the coming of the Messiah. Even unbelievers KNOW about the Lord Jesus Christ.

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/MAT 2:5

*They (the chief priests and scribes) said to him, “(The Messiah is to be born) In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet... *

/MAT 2:6

*‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’” *

/MAT 2:7

*Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. *

/MAT 2:8

*And he (Herod) sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.” *

/MAT 2:9

*After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. *

/MAT 2:10

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. *

/MAT 2:11

*After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts (fit for a King) of gold (for His Deity), frankincense (for His life), and myrrh (for His humanity, identifying Him with His death). *

/MAT 2:12

*And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. *

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The God-Man’s impact on Herod was to threaten His kingdom...this event called for a divine response of faith and obedience in the face of a circumstance that calls for a human response of doubt and disobedience... yet Herod was an unbeliever, and responded as man without faith would...Matthew, Chapter 2, Verse 13...

/The God-Man’s Impact on the Parents and the Children of His Day

MAT 2:13

Now when they (the Magi) had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

/MAT 2:14

So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

/MAT 2:15

He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”

/MAT 2:16

Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

/MAT 2:17

Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

/MAT 2:18

“A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.”

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/MAT 2:19

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said...

/MAT 2:20

“Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead.”

/MAT 2:21

So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

/MAT 2:22

But when he (Joseph) heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee...

/MAT 2:23

...and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

The God-Man’s impact on the parents and the children of His day called for a divine response of faith and obedience in the face of a circumstance that calls for a human response of doubt and disobedience. Turn to Hebrews, Chapter 10, Verse 1...

/The God-Man’s Perspective of His Impact

HEB 10:1

For the (Mosaic) Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they (Levitical priests) offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

/HEB 10:2

Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered (if they made the offerers perfect), because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

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This is what we, as believers in Christ, are called to do. We have been made perfect at the moment of salvation. God gives us His absolute righteousness. We are cleansed from sins once and for all time. God makes us perfect. Therefore, we are to no longer have consciousness of our sins.

/HEB 10:3

But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.

/HEB 10:4

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

IMPOSSIBLE! It is impossible for your confession of sins to take away sins. It is impossible for your guilt reactions about your sins to take away sins. Only the blood of Christ takes away sins.

/HEB 10:5

Therefore, when He (the Lord Jesus Christ) comes into the world, He says (from His Deity), “SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU (God the Father) HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME...”

/HEB 10:6

“IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND IN SACRIFICES FOR SIN (by man) YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE.”

/HEB 10:7

“THEN I (the Lord Jesus Christ) SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD (the Father).’”

The God-Man’s impact calls for a divine response of faith and obedience in the face of a circumstance that calls for a human response of doubt and disobedience. As far as the east is from the west, He has removed our iniquities from us...

/The God-Man’s Impact

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God the Father's will is that the Lord Jesus Christ be the ONLY perfectly satisfactory payment for the sins of the whole world. First John, Chapter 2, verses 1 and 2...

/1JO 2:1

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous... *

/1JO 2:2

*...and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. *

All God asks of us is this...BELIEVE...have confidence in My Person...BELIEVE...do everything I say...BELIEVE...faith. Today we express our faith...today we believe...and we thank our almighty God for the birth of the Savior of the World.

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/CLOSING SONG

O Holy Night\

CLOSING VERSES

/PRO 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.//In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

/DEU 31:8

The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed

/ISA 30:18

Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

THANKS
INTERCESSION
PETITION

And we pray that You continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of Your unconditional love, Your person, Your thinking, Your work, and Your essence...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

/Thanks for coming!
Thanks for watching!
Thanks for listening!

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