

Luke 2:1-5. (merry Christmas, eve service, be safe)

With all the hustle of this time of year, all of the panic that sets in....men, have you finished?

With all of the running around, the going, the doing, the parties.....it is easy to get a little lost...

Its easy to find yourself in the middle of a large crowd, and feel incredibly insignificant...

In a world with 7 billion people....i sometimes lie in bed and wonder.....God....do you hear me, and if so.....how....

Amanda and I were talking the other day.....and kylie, tye were with us.....and as Amanda is talking I truly thought I was listening....she is telling me all about a gift we need to get her dad..

And as she finishes talking, I look right at her and say.....hey....we really need to get your dad a gift...

And men, have you ever seen that look on your wifes face that says.....you just messed up...

Like....you don't even know what you did.....but you know you did something wrong.....

And in the midst of me sitting their confused trying to figure out what ive missed my wife reminds me.....you know....im starting to worry about you, you do that a lot here lately...

And now.....im really worried, like.....I am.....am I alone in this? Please tell me several of you...

but I layed in bed thinking.....God.....how do you hear me, you have 7 billion people you are listening to, it must be exhausting....im laying there planning out how im going to prioritize the next week or 2, and everything that I have to do.....

when it hits me.....how meticulous, thoughtful, organized, and purposeful God is.....

and as we look this morning at 1 week before the advent.....1 week before the savior of the world would put on human form and come to live among us....

I want to draw this out for you.....that we can trust in God as our greatest source of joy....because he is truly soverei

And we are going to look and see his sovereignty in this passage this morning.....and I encourage you to take joy in God's sovereignty.....(what is it, that he is in complete control of everything, there is no detail that escapes his eye)

Read together, **Luke 2:1-5**

I know what you may be thinking.....i don't see a lot of God's sovereignty here....maybe your thinking.....i see the Christmas story....

All I really see is.....a couple going on a journey, being forced to go get taxed

So lets pick up with Luke here.....Luke is telling us the Christmas story.....he is giving us more details than all of the other gospels.....

Mark doesn't even cover the birth, John begins his gospel "in the beginning was the word and jumps straight into John the Baptist saying – behold the lamb of God, and Matthew spends about 8 verses on the birth of Christ...

But luke gives us around 100 verses of detail – detail that comes from God as inspired

Why is he giving us that much detail? – b/c of his audience.....he is writing to Theophilus, that he might be certain of the stories that were being circulated.....and for us, that we would have the details

Details are what give us a dependence on testimony.....and Luke was acting as an investigator.....writing in detail for Theophilus.....

And here is where we start to get into how depending on God's sovereignty can bring us joy.....lets examine the detail

v. 1 – in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered....for tax purp

Theophilus now knows the time period in which Luke is writing....he would have known when Caesar Augustus ruled

v.2 he gives even more detail for theoph.....this was the first registration....when Quirinius was governor...

For us, these details have little consequence....but Theophilus would have known that there were at least 2 registrations.....Luke mentions another in acts 5:37.....but what we suspect is that particular registration was fiasco

So Luke lets Theophilus know.....this registration was the first one.....when everything was orderly....

v.3-5 – and all went to be registered, each to his own town.....here is where we begin to see God's sovereignty and how well he has everything planned out

Joseph goes up from galilee, from the town of Nazareth – can anything good come from Nazareth....

We have long known that Mary and Joseph were from Nazareth....a small inconsequential town.....

And this presents a little bit of a problem.....because.....scripture has already prophesied something very important about the messiah's birth..... **Micah 5:2**

So 700 years before the advent, it was told that the messiah would come from Bethlehem....the city of David

and if we look at **Jeremiah 23:5-6** we see something else about the messiah.....he would be a descendant of David

so here we see how God is working to bring these two things to fruition.....the messiah would be of David, born in Bethlehem....

Whats so important about Bethlehem, how does this fit in with God's sovereignty and planning.....the reason Bethlehem is called the city of David.....is where David was born, and where he was anointed king.....

So God in his sovereignty has to get Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem.....when she is close to being ready for birth -I can't even get my kids to bed

How does he do it.....by making them pay taxes.....

So lets look at 3 things about God's sovereignty we can see in this story.....

1. **God knows every event in our history.** (Isaiah 46:10) *I make known the end from the beginning*
 - a. The mistakes,
2. **God knows every moment of our present.** (psalm 139:4) *even before a word is on my tongue you know it*
 - a. Family, job, finances
3. **God has meticulously planned our future** (proverbs 16:9) *the heart of a man plans his way, but the lord establishes his steps*
 - a. children, school, grades.....

