

sermon notes

December 22, 2019 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Harvest Decatur
"Rags to Riches (Part 1)" | **Luke 2:1-20**

Why is Jesus's humble birth significant?

Jesus's humble birth points towards...

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Christmas Application Questions:

GO DEEPER

Read Luke's Infancy Narrative with your family or a group of friends. How was God's glory put on display in Luke 2:1-20? In what ways is the birth of Christ surprising (i.e. how is it different from what you would expect for a King/Messiah)? Read the following article by John Piper that discusses the importance of the manger at Christmas time to help you answer the question: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-meaning-of-the-manger>

Watch the Bible project video on Luke 1-2 and Jesus's Birth:

<https://thebibleproject.com/blog/luke-chapter-1-2-birth-jesus/>

According to the video, how does Jesus bring salvation to our world by turning our world upside down?

Martin Luther said that when we look at the manger in Bethlehem, we should see wood that one day would take the shape of a cross. Do you think about the cross at Christmas time? If no, why not? If Good Friday never happened, should we even celebrate Christmas?

GET PERSONAL

What's the best thing that's happened to you since last Christmas? When was your best Christmas ever? Why? What's the most meaningful Christmas gift you've ever received? Why is gift-giving an important Christmas tradition in Christianity?

Why is Christmas such a popular and well-loved holiday? What do you do to try to keep Christ in Christmas? Why did Jesus come to earth and what did he accomplish?

How did Christ model Christianity for us? How has humility been cultivated in your life as a Christian? Why is pride inconsistent with the Christian message?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Write out a Christmas Card to Jesus this year and put it on your refrigerator. Express your thankfulness to Jesus in the card. Tell him what you are thankful for at Christmas time. Tell him how you feel about his first coming. Tell him what you are anticipating at his second coming.

Find a copy of the Christmas song "What Child is This?" with all of the verses. Sing through all the verses and note the parallels with Scripture. What are some Biblical truths conveyed in this song? Print out the verses of another Christmas song that is rich in theology (e.g. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Go Tell it on the Mountain," "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," etc.). Sing through the verses and write down all the theological truths that are set to music.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Advanced Question: Read Matthew 1-2 and Luke 2:1-20. Compare and contrast the two infancy narratives. What is the significance of the shepherds in Luke's narrative? What is the significance of the wisemen in Matthew's narrative? Why do we have two different infancy narratives? What benefit is there in having both? Do Mark and John have infancy narratives? If not, why not?