

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LIFE, WORK,
TEACHING AND CLAIMS OF JESUS CHRIST

The Way Up is Down

LUKE 2:1-7 | APRIL 6 & 7, 2013

Today Pastor Mike set sail from where he left off in the last message. He shared a personal story about trying to help a drowning victim. He shared further that it never occurred to him to send his own son into dangerous waters to make the rescue. Though all of our instincts are to protect our children, we discover a God who will stop at nothing to rescue us - even to the depths of sending his own son.



Watch this week's summary message from Pastor Mike at <http://luke.christchurchil.org/resources>. (Videos will be live on Sunday afternoon.)

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

Describe a time in your life when you sacrificed something to help another person? OR Describe a situation where someone went the extra mile to serve you?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

Pastor Mike pointed to two prophecies (Isaiah 9 and Micah 5:2) and to Luke's historic detail (Caesar Augustus and Quirinius) as evidence that this is "real" and not a fictional account from "a land far away." He also noted that we correct someone who said, "I don't really think Lincoln was a president..." Do you see people relying on feelings more than reason today? How important is it to root Christ in real history?

The sermon pointed out that the most amazing part of the story is not whether they slept inside or outside in Bethlehem or that

Mary traveled over 100 miles while pregnant on a donkey. What is the most amazing part of Luke 2:1-7 and what makes it amazing?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What was the most helpful or inspirational part of the sermon for you?

Read the famous "Kenosis Passage" (Kenosis means emptying) in Philippians 2:6-11. What insight does this passage give you into how much God loves you?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

Though Caesar Augustus reigned and Quirinius governed, the one who would be greatest of all, was "lying in a manger." In God's Kingdom, some things are opposite of how they appear; least is greatest; last is first; way up is down; humble are made great; lose your life to gain it; die to live; weak made strong; poor are blessed; mourners are comforted, etc. Theologians refer to this as the "upside down kingdom." What might it mean for you to live in the 21st century according to "upside down" kingdom principles?

ON YOUR OWN



PRACTICE

Remembering what Christ Jesus sacrificed for you, find a time this week to sacrifice your wants, needs or time for the sake of someone else. Share with your group how it went.



PRAYER

Father, I thank you that you have never abandoned me. More than that, I am humbled that you chose to enter into our earthly reality and take on human flesh. Your humility and sacrifice shows that I am deeply loved and models how I might live and show love to others.



MEMORIZING

Philippians 2:5-7

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VIA EMAIL AT [HTTP://LUKE.CHURCHIL.ORG/RESOURCES](http://luke.christchurchil.org/resources).