

Invited.

The Shepherds of Luke 2:1-20
Part 1 in the Series: You 2.013
Finding & Doing the Will of God
Communicator - Jeff Fuson

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Key Idea = 'Providence'
Maxim # 1 - God is on the
move all the time behind the
'circumstances' of life.

See also: Romans 8:28

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Key Idea:

During the ordinary days of our lives, doing the right thing is always part of God's will.

[If you ever feel 'led by God' to do the wrong thing be very sure it's God and not 'bad pizza'.]

Maxim # 2

Doing the 'right thing' and being the 'right kind of person' puts you smack-dab in the center God's Will.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Key Idea: Hard circumstances do not mean that God has abandoned us.

Maxim # 3: Doing 'hard time' in 'hard places' may be part of God's will for you. HE may be doing something that you don't yet understand.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

Key Idea: God is cool with a 'blue collar' Christmas! He sent the angel of the Lord to invite the shepherds first!

Maxim # 4: God CAN use supernatural means like angels to deliver His news. But Angels usually invoke fear and they NEVER contradict God's written Word [the Bible].

And the angel said to them, "Fear not,
for behold, I bring you good news of
great joy that will be for all the
people. For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a •Savior, who is
•Christ the •Lord.

3 Titles Given to Jesus by the
Angel:
Savior
Christ
Lord

And this will be a sign for you: you
will find a baby wrapped in
swaddling cloths and lying in
a manger."

And suddenly there was with the
angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those
with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Key Idea:

God's Will always begins at the manger.

Maxim # 5

GOING to the manger and taking in
the fullness of the Son of God as
Savior AND Christ AND Lord is the
beginning of knowing and doing the
will of God.

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

(Luke 2:1-20 ESV)

What can we learn about finding and doing the will of God from the Shepherds?

What can we learn from Mary & Joseph?

Migdal Eder

tower of the flock

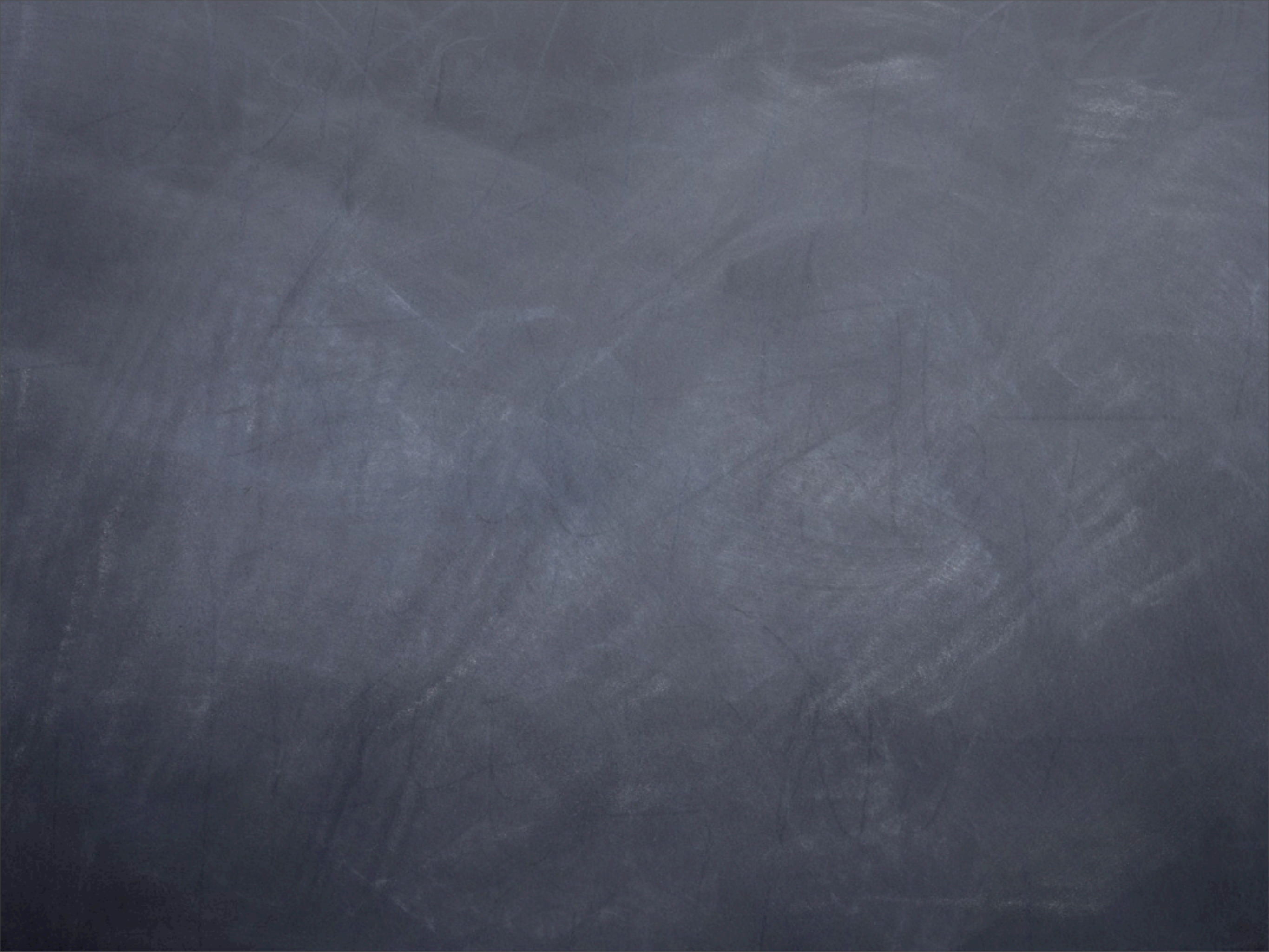
'swaddling cloths' & 'manger'

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who
takes away the sin of the world!

(John 1:29 ESV)

Call to Action:

Do the next thing that you sense God
asking you to do - NOW.



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