



Shelby Christian Church

CHRISTMAS - HOLY MOMENTS: THE POWER OF A MEMORY

LUKE 2:1-7 * 12/21/2025

MAIN POINT

At the time of God's choosing, Jesus Christ came into the world as Savior, in the humblest of circumstances—born of the virgin Mary and laid in a manger in Bethlehem.

What are some interesting facts about the year you were born?

What does it mean to be “a child of the times”? To what extent and in what ways do you think one person can change the course of his or her “times”?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 2:1-3.

What are three historical facts Luke mentioned in these verses?

Why do you think Luke selected these facts in particular to set the context for Jesus' birth?

If Jesus had been born in the same country and year as you, what might have happened differently? What would have been the same?

On the surface, this was a political and tax-gathering measure. How does this event fulfill the prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)? What does this reveal about God's ability to use worldly rulers to accomplish His divine plan?

"All went to be registered, each to his own town" (v. 3): This required significant travel. Consider the hardship this placed on people, especially a heavily pregnant woman like Mary. How might Joseph and Mary have felt about this timing?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 2:4-5.

What impresses you about Joseph and Mary in these verses? What further insights about the couple are learned from Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38?

What hardships did the couple face at this time? How was God involved in helping them overcome their hardships?

What do Joseph and Mary's experiences teach you about God? What do they teach you about when you face hopeless-looking situations?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 2:6-7.

The timing was precise; God's plan unfolded exactly when it needed to. How can we find comfort in God's perfect timing in our own lives, especially during times of waiting or stress?

Of what significance to your faith are the following facts surrounding Jesus' birth: His birth to a virgin? Why do you think God orchestrated such a lowly entry for the King of the Universe? What does this teach us about the values of the Kingdom of God versus the values of the world?

What do our modern celebrations of Christmas get right about the significance of Jesus' birth? What do we get wrong?

APPLICATION

What effect has the news of Jesus' birth had on you personally?

How does the birth of Jesus in a particular time and place impact the way you view the time and place in which God has placed you? How is this significant in fulfilling His purposes in your life?

Why is it important for Christians to anchor Jesus' birth in its historical context when they share the gospel with others?

The Innkeeper had no room for the Savior. What "rooms" in your life (e.g., time, worries, pride, busy schedules) might you need to clear out to make more room for Jesus this season?

PRAYER