

THE HOUSE
Week 4 – Little, Unlikely and Perfect
12/02/18

(LUKE 2:1-5) – *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.*

(MICAH 5:2) – ² *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”*

God often works _____ through the _____ and _____ settings. Yet, it is the _____ ground for His plans.

“**BETHLEHEM**” – In the Hebrew, was “Bet Lechem” – _____.

_____ – **A dying mother**

(GENESIS 35:16-20) – ¹⁶ Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. ¹⁷ And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, “Don’t be afraid, for you have another son.” ¹⁸ As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. But his father named him Benjamin. ¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰ Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel’s tomb.

_____ – **A desperate widow**

(RUTH 1:16-19) – ¹⁶ But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. ¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem...

_____ – **The youngest son of a shepherd**

(1 SAMUEL 16:1) – The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

– A tyrannical egomaniac

(MATTHEW 2:1-6) – After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:⁶ “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, re by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’”

– A reclusive translator

LITTLE AND UNLIKELY...BUT STILL PERFECT

1) Situations where _____ gets forged in us.

(ROMANS 5:3-5) –³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

(JAMES 1:2-4) –² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

2) Weaknesses that make us aware of _____.

(2 CORINTHIANS 12: 8-10) –⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

(ROMANS 8:37) – No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

(1 JOHN 4:4) –⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

3) Crossroads where _____ is unavoidable.

4) Opportunities where _____ can be shared to others.

(2 CORINTHIANS 5:20) –²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.