

Of these five contemporaries
mentioned
in the Bible's Christmas readings,
which were the more well known
in what we would call the year 1 B.C.?

- + Herod, King of Judea
- + Mary of Nazareth
- + Quirinius, Governor of Syria
- + Joseph of Nazareth, builder/contractor
- + Caesar Augustus, Roman Emperor



The Sermon:

“Christmas Guests, Christmas Gifts?” #1 of 5

Gary Olsen,
Lead Pastor, Dr. Ministry

Bible Reading:

Luke 1:26-33, Matthew 1:18-21,
Luke 2:1-5 NCV

Luke 1:26-33 NCV

²⁶ During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy,
God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth,
a town in Galilee,²⁷ to a virgin.
She was engaged to marry a man named
Joseph
from the family of David.
Her name was Mary.

Luke 1 NCV

²⁸ The angel came to her and said,
“Greetings! The Lord has blessed you
and is with you.”

²⁹ But Mary was very startled by
what the angel said and wondered
what this greeting might mean.

Luke 1 NCV

³⁰ The angel said to her,
“Don't be afraid, Mary;
God has shown you his grace.

³¹ Listen! You will become pregnant and
give birth to a son,
and you will name him Jesus.

Luke 1 NCV

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him

the throne of King David, his ancestor.

³³ He will rule over the people of Jacob forever,
and his kingdom will never end.”

Matthew 1:18-21 NCV

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they married, she learned she was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Because Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man, he did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

Matthew 1 NCV

²⁰ While Joseph thought about these things, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Luke 2:1-5 NCV

¹ At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order

that all people in the countries under Roman rule must list their names in a register.

² This was the first registration; it was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³ And all went to their own towns to be registered.

Luke 2 NCV

⁴ So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, known as the town of David.

Joseph went there because he was from the family of David.

⁵ Joseph registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was now pregnant.



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Matthew 1:18-19 NCV

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Matthew 1: 20 *NCV*

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Matthew 1: 20 *NCV*

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sins.”

Luke 1:26-33 *NCV*

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give birth to a son,
and you will name him Jesus.³² He will be great
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Mike Slaughter

CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY

Experience
the Joy of Living
and Giving Like Jesus

“Throughout Scripture,
God chose ordinary, unqualified people
through whom to do miracles.”

“... God births miracles in ordinary people
...”

-- Mike Slaughter, It's Not Your Birthday

“Jesus comes to ordinary people today
to use us for God’s purpose.”

”That’s right – you are God’s miracle worker!
You are God’s means
to affect change in your world
and God wants to birth a miracle through you.”

-- Mike Slaughter, It’s Not Your Birthday

ACTION STEP #1

MAKE CHRIST THE FOCUS OF YOUR CHRISTMAS!

+ manger scenes

+ Advent calendars

ACTION STEP #2

GIVE GIFTS JESUS WOULD WANT

- + clean
- + faithful
- + missional



Rolling Hills Community Church Outreach Christmas Market

Give gifts that keep on giving!

Purchase Gifts

November 27th thru December 25, 2011

Joseph & Mary

Struggling parents-to-be, even refugees.

Family-Life Ministry, RHCC ~ Teaching parents to minister to their children at home.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
World Vision ~ Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children and families.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Samaritan's Purse ~ Provides aid to victims of war, poverty, natural disaster.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
CROP Walk/Church World Service ~ Raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Angels

Spreading the Good News.

RHCC Bible Fund ~ Distribution of Bibles to visitors and homeless.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
American Bible Society ~ Brings life changing message of the Bible where needed most.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Biblica ~ Transforming lives through God's Word.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Gideons ~ Dedicated to Bible distribution and evangelism.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Shepherds

Unemployed, working poor, etc.

RHCC Food Pantry ~ Provides food to families in our community.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Hill Country Community Ministries ~ Provides food and clothing for Travis & Williamson counties.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Samaritan Health ~ Provides low cost healthcare to the uninsured.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Church Under the Bridge ~ Ministry For the Homeless in Austin.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Life Long Friends ~ Local Animal Adoption Center	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Wisemen & Herod

International missions, persecuted Christian

Knit-A-Square ~ South Africa Children's Blanket Project	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Timothy Stains Memorial Children's Home and Orphanage in Madurai, South India	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Voice of the Martyrs ~ Aiding Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith in Christ.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Invisible Children Uganda ~ working with youth affected by Africa's longest running war.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Baby Jesus

Infants and childrens ministries.

RHCC Youth Programs ~ VBS, TreeHouse, Roots Troop, Planet Youth	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Hope Connections Pregnancy Center ~ Provides Services for Unplanned Pregnancy.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
RHEEEP ~ Rolling Hills Early Education Scholarship Fund.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Any Baby Can ~ Provides crisis management for families with critically ill or disabled children.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Inn Keepers

Hospitality ministries to travelers, homeless, refugees, etc.

Ronald MacDonald House ~ Provides comfort and care to children and their families during illness.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Seton League House ~ Provides families a place to stay while loved ones are hospitalized.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
Safe Place Shelter ~ Provides shelter and assistance to abused women and children.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

SHOPPERS NAME: _____

TOTAL: _____

Make your check to RHCC and note "OCM." Attach check to the shopping list and place in envelope.
Donations are tax deductible.

ACTION STEP #3

GIVE GIFTS THE WAY JESUS WOULD WANT

A cash-only Christmas – no plastic!

ACTION STEP #4

BE USED OF GOD FOR A MIRACLE!

“What ideas do you have
that could be seeds for a mission miracle?”

ACTION STEP #4 (continued) BE USED OF GOD FOR A MIRACLE!

“Pray about and then write down one, two, or three ideas or thoughts for you to pursue in helping change this world for God’s Kingdom!”

ACTION STEP #5

GET THE FACT THAT, IN GOD'S EYES, NOBODY IS A NOBODY!

“In the same way that God once sent his angel to make that announcement to Mary,
God comes to ordinary people today to use us for God's purpose.”

“Every Spirit-filled Christian has the potential for a God-miracle within him or her. The miracle is conceived and developed through ordinary people who are willing to dream God’s dreams and then act on God’s vision.”

“Every miracle of God is

- + conceived in the heart of the believer;
- + grows in conviction and clarity;
- + and is delivered through committed action.”

“Are you ready for God to birth
a Christmas miracle in you?!”

If you are willing to do all that you can,
God will do all that you can't!”



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