

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



LUKE 2:1-21

FINDING HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S INVITATION CAN FOREVER CHANGE
THE DIRECTION AND DESTINATION OF OUR LIVES

1. The Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary When You Realize
God is AT WORK (1-7)

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world
should be registered." LUKE 2:1

"While Augustus imagines he is acting from his own authority,
he becomes the instrument for bringing about the birth in
Bethlehem foretold by the prophets." John Chrysostom

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans
of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in
Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." Micah 5:2
(Written 700+/- years prior to Jesus' birth)

WHAT THEY THOUGHT WOULD BE
AN ORDINARY DAY, GOD TURNED IN
TO A DIVINE ENCOUNTER

WE DON'T ALWAYS SEE GOD AT
AT WORK

2. The Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary When You
RECEIVE God's Good News (8-16)

"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which
the Lord has made known to us." LUKE 2:15

"Not to the wise, nor to the great, but to shepherds—this is the way of God, to choose the lowly." John Chrysostom

Most people look in PALACES for greatness but God often looks in PASTURES

Jesus became part of our HUMAN family so that we could become part of His HEAVENLY family.

"Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:6-8

3. The Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary When You SHARE God's Good News (17-21)

"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." Luke 2:17

God calls everyday people, working in everyday places, to carry the Good News every person.

They came to the manger as SHEPHERDS and left as EVANGELISTS

You and I are called not only to COME AND SEE but to GO AND TELL.