



CHRISTMAS EVE 2021

The Most Important Choices You'll Make this Christmas Luke 2:1-21

The choice of what will be most important in life.

Verse 1:

Text Message:

- We may sing of “We Three Kings,” but the Christmas Story in Luke is the story of two kings- Caesar and the newborn Christ.
- These kings represent for us what is most important in life.
- In other words, something or someone will be king in your life!
- Something or someone will reign supreme!
- King Caesar here represents much of what our world values:
 - 1) He brought peace and prosperity to the known world...
 - 2) He is recognized historically as an administrative genius.
 - 3) The economy flourished under his reign (job security) ...
 - 4) He's been described as “unusually handsome... graceful... calm and mild” in biographies.
- In other words, he had all of what is chased after in life.
- And yet, unlike the newborn king, had no ability to impart life!
- This is the testimony of the ages by those who followed lesser kings, only to find true life in the King whose birth we celebrate this evening.
- Christmas is a great time to do a heart check as to what is king in our lives: *Is it King Jesus or a lesser king?*

The choice of what values will shape your life.

Verses 3-7:

Text Message:

- Again, we see the contrast of two kings and kingdoms.
- Joseph and Mary are our examples here- they're living in the kingdom of Caesar but it's not the kingdom they're living for.
- The question is not what kingdom are you living in, but what kingdom are you living for?
- What values are shaping your life? Are they what is important to Christ, or what is important to the world around us?
- Is your life a testimony of living for the kingdom of God, or an echo of everyone else's life?
- Our lives are either being shaped by a lesser kingdom or the kingdom of Christ- one decision at a time!
- God has given us the gift of Jesus Christ and the gift of choice, and what we choose will determine the innermost qualities of our life:

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Galatians 6:7

The choice to trust Jesus in mystery and rejoicing.

Verses 8-21:

Text Message:

- Notice the Christmas story is filled with rejoicing **and** mystery and give a foretaste of what it looks like to trust Jesus.
- Certainly, there are times of great rejoicing in following Jesus and experiencing the thrill of trusting Him in and with all of life.
- But there is also great mystery, as there was at Jesus birth.
- Often Verse 21 is lopped off the Christmas story because it takes place eight days later, but did you know the shepherds were rejoicing in this king **and didn't even know His name?**
- This third choice reminds us to trust in Jesus even when we don't know or understand the stuff life throws our way.
- The shepherds didn't know His name, and there is much we don't know, but will we choose to trust?
- Christmas Season is a great time to reflect and consider what choices will carry us into the New Year...



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