

Sermon Discussion Guide

12.10.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Luke 2:1-7

Key Scripture:

“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

- Luke 2:1-7

“I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will make music. I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house”

- Psalm 101:1-2

Message Highlights:

- Key areas of focus: Legacies and how we handle shortcomings/failures.
 - How we respond to failure is important. Responding with commitment, integrity and accountability are essential components of a healthy response.
 - You get to decide: advance your legacy or begin anew.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

If you were invited to your own funeral, what would you hope to hear from your obituary?

Would what you hear represent Christ well? Why or why not?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God’s Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

What is the overall purpose of this text?

- What does this passage say about God's character?
- What does this passage tell us about how we are to approach a relationship with God?
- Why do you suppose God sent his son to the earth in such humble circumstances?
- How do the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth and the life he lived shape our understanding of God's redeeming plan for salvation and the significance of humility in the Christian journey?
- The circumstances of Jesus' birth, in a humble setting like a manger, convey a sense of humility. How does this theme of humility connect with the broader biblical narrative, especially considering Jesus' later exaltation?
- Considering Psalm 101, How does the psalmist's commitment to pondering the blameless way in Psalm 101 influence the idea of building a legacy?
- With regards to the psalmist's desire for God to come, how can an earnest seeking of God's presence contribute to the legacy one leaves behind?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- What does your legacy mean to you at this point in your life? When you think about your legacy, do you consider the implications of a faith-filled life?
- What does it mean to live a faith-filled life like David chose with regard to leaving a lasting legacy?
- In what ways does the humble birth of Jesus in a manger reflect the concept of humility and its impact on your legacy?
- David's decision-making offered examples of both positive and negative experiences. How does David's handling of poor decision-making contribute to the lasting impression of his legacy?
- David also had redeeming qualities when he dealt with his poor decisions; how can dealing with poor decisions well positively impact your legacy?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group recognize the communal implications for us as a Gospel-centered community?)

- How does being more intentional about the way you choose to live in light of the example set by Jesus model humble living for others?
- How are commitment, integrity and accountability important factors for anyone when building our legacy?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- David's decisions were left in the scripture for all to see, a model for us as Christians to follow after or learn from. In the grander scheme of the great commission, we are called to aid others in their spiritual growth; how can we use our life decisions as a model for others or an opportunity to learn?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

The legacy we build in this life is bigger than we might think. As mentioned above, our decisions can impact generations and the circle of influence outside our families.

- Consider how the decision you are making and the legacy you are building impact the lot God has given you.
 - How does this impact how you view perseverance?
 - How does this impact your commitment to being an example of Christ at work, school or in the community?
 - How does this impact how you respond in difficult situations?