


Luke 2:1-5 (NRSV) ¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.



Trying to imagine Joseph in his shop working.
His business is not incorporated yet. Just Joseph's Carpentry.
Maybe building new buckets or a yoke.
Just found out his fiancée is pregnant. What he knows is that he is not the father.
And he's had this strange dream where he meets an angel and tells him what has happened to Mary is ok. Don't be afraid and to take her for his wife.
But Gabe said

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Matthew 1:20-23 (NRSV) ²⁰, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

And now Congress has passed tax reform but in order for it to be implemented he's got to go to Bethlehem because that is his root home.

Sure king David but it's also Rahab and Tamar and Eddie and Buck. You know there I'm kind of known as Less Than.

Wanna Get Away?

Man Wanna get away?



But he didn't run. He didn't bail. He didn't choose to "get away". He listened, he trusted, he obeyed.

God chose him and he got to be a part of something great

⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

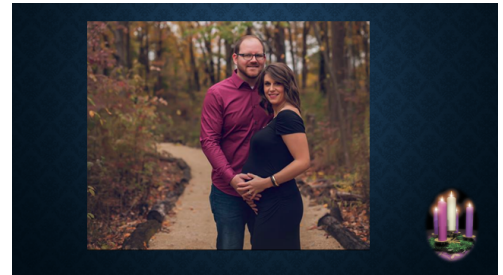
And Mary went with him. That may be a bit weird too.

Adam Hamilton ...” for the ordinary subjects of Rome such as Joseph, who were not citizens, the penalty was much more severe: imprisonment, confiscation of property, scourging, or slavery. This is why there was urgency for Joseph to return to his hometown. He had no choice but to go back to Bethlehem and comply.

Typically, only the man needed to appear

So why did she go and how did she react? And what would have this been like to Take this trip

My daughter Jenna and her husband Matt are due in early January with their first child. I thought I could glean a bit from this young couple to get a real perspective on what it would be like to be this close to their child birth and how that may relate to Mary and Joseph’s story. So I asked Matt if he could concoct a fictional trip that required Jenna to go along. I was hoping to get what Jenna’s reaction would be.



But Matt simply couldn’t do it. It would have been too tough to even hypothetically request Jenna to have to travel this late in the pregnancy. But instead Matt shared with me his thoughts on what it would have been like to be a young couple 2000 years ago. (Matt’s entire document is on the web site and worth the read!)

He said

I was asked to do something very simple, devise a plan in which I ask my wife to go out of town this Christmas season. It seems simple, it doesn’t have to be a real request, nor should it be, but it should be documented in order to capture her response. My wife will be approximately 38 weeks pregnant at that time. I can easily anticipate her response to be along the lines of, “Are you kidding me? I’m only leaving the couch for work and food, there is no way on God’s green Earth I’m going two and half hours away from the hospital. Why would you even ask that?” Mind you there are hospitals everywhere, but not THE HOSPITAL which she spent an insane amount of time researching to ensure all the amenities and comforts provided will meet the standards she requires for the delivery of our child. Any requests along these lines would begin with her refusal and end with her insistence that I delete any video of the reaction and promise never to provide it to her father for use as an illustration in his Christmas sermon

I don’t have to ask my wife to go out of town this Christmas season, she doesn’t have to

roll her eyes, tell me no, and ask me to delete a video because I couldn't do what was asked of me by my father-in-law, let alone what Mary and Joseph had to do.

So he couldn't do it. So I'm thinking I'm really insensitive or he is simply really a good guy.

So why did he take her?

From Matt

*The birth of Jesus does not happen without God having chosen these two specific individuals. He chose Mary to bare and raise Jesus while at the same time choosing Joseph to teach and **protect him** while he grows up on this plane (God is the father of Christ, Joseph was his dad). While my wife and I's child has not yet been born we already find ourselves in a position to **want to protect** him or her and to keep them safe from the unexpected (hence we have mapped out all the routes to our hospital of choice, none of which involve coming from South Whitley).*

Adam Hamilton

*Joseph chose to care for, **protect**, and raise a child who was not his own.*

*I believe Joseph took Mary with him to Bethlehem for fear that, in the troubled times of a census, something might happen to her and the child she was carrying if she remained in Nazareth. I think he took Mary to **protect** her, not wanting her to be out of his sight during a time of potential danger. But I also see the Spirit's work in nudging Joseph to take Mary with him to Bethlehem. Why would God nudge Joseph to take Mary on this difficult journey just before she gave birth? I believe that God intended that Jesus be born in Bethlehem.*

(protect)

He comes from line that contains questionable characters. How would she be treated? She's with a child that is not Joseph. How will she be treated. The time is coming for delivery? How will she be treated. He wants her treated in the best way possible. He wants to care for, love and protect her. The best way was to keep her close even if it meant a long difficult journey to Bethlehem. He's been asked to take Mary as his wife which would include the responsibilities of being a father figure to this child. His desire to protect is also for the unborn even if it is not his own. **That is the character God saw in Joseph. He wants to see his best in us as well.**

AH Perhaps as we celebrate Christmas, we need to reclaim his emphasis on giving to children who are not our own, children who are most in need.

Perhaps that is a lesson for us that we need to give to those who are not are own. Those who are most in need. Those that society calls less than. What Karen's table and breakfast with Santa intend to do

So the journey
2 possible routes

AH Jesus regularly ministered with Samaritans, passed through Samaria, and made Samaritans the heroes of his parables, singling them out for affirmation as he ministered with the multitudes. I believe it's likely that his heart for the Samaritans, who were often treated poorly by the Jews, came from Joseph, who himself knew what it was like to be treated as "less than." If Joseph did in fact influence Jesus' concern for the Samaritans, then it seems unlikely to me that he would have avoided taking the shorter route through Samaria to Bethlehem.



It is the suggestion from AH that Joseph would have recalled this journey to Bethlehem from Nazareth through Samaria that he would have talked to Jesus about those that are “less than”. Those despised by his own kind. It is probably not that much different than some of the prejudices we possess like racism, or socio/eco class differences, sexuality choices, or religious differences.

So much of Jesus ministry was about how the “less thans” are treated. And he most likely was influenced by he upbringing from Joseph, who God entrusted to raise THE SON.

10 were healed one said thanks a Samaritan

Luke 17:11-19 (NRSV) ¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Jesus Ministry – “The Less Thans”

- The Thankful Samaritan – Luke 17:11-19
- The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37
- The Woman at the Well – John 4
- Different Sheep – John 10:14-16



Man left for dead on a road. Religious leaders wouldnt help but a good Samaritan di

Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV) ²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Woman at the well a Samaritan

John 4:7-42 (NRSV) ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father

neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The less thans, the others, the people who have been discarded. I have sheep not of this pen.

John 10:14-16 (NRSV) ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Those less thans. Jesus knew and loved. Most likely influenced by his stepfather Joseph. God brings out his greatest qualities in people to influence others.

Who are our less thans and how are we loving them?

Points can't narrow to one so pick one

1. God is so good. He wants us to be his children adopted

2. Jesus was sent in order for the adoption to take place

I want to own this more. I want to own my adoption More. But in order for me to do that I have to understand what it means to be an orphan. What it means to be without a parent without a family without a home. Because that's what I am and was without Christ

3. Good choose Joe and he choose you and me to accomplish his plan

4. I need to be like Joseph who cared for who he was called upon to care for

5. There is great Joy here.

I was at Von Maur the other day. Never been there but wanted to see where Joe Thomas played.

The pianist was playing "Oh come all ye faithful"

It struck me that we are to come "JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT."

This sunday is Gaudete (Gow DAY tay). Sunday in Advent. It is about joy. We are not to be grumpy Christians but ones who come joyfully and triumphantly.

That is why ur songs were about Joy today.

We can experience better great joy when we recognize our need, our distance, our lives as orphans w/o God.

"Joy to the World" is really about his second coming. But yet we do sing it at Christmas. And that is how we are to live all year. Joyfully and Triumphantly knowing he came in a manger so long ago, came personally to each of us, AND will triumphantly on day return.

Joy to the World p. 246