December 10, 2017



Freedom is Here

Luke 2:1-14 (ESV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 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, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 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. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

I. Freedom is a result of how you view Jesus.

• The world has always sought to shrink lesus down to size.

Colossians 1:15-20 (ESV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 2:9 (ESV)

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

John 1:1-4 (ESV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

• Keeping Jesus as an infant keeps your problems impossible.

2. Freedom is a result of how you value Jesus.

 Decide if Christ will have your <u>barn</u> or your <u>bed</u>. (Colossians 3:3-5)

 The greatest mistake of Christmas is keeping Christ in the <u>manger</u> and not the <u>master suite</u>.

• The problem with the inn keeper was not overcrowding, it was a misunderstanding.

• Failure to make room for Christ has <u>catastrophic</u> consequences. (Micah 5:2)

3. Freedom is found in announcing His story.

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