


Does this quote apply to you?



Do you find any comfort in this quote?

God can see things that you can't see. It may not make sense right now, but one day, when God's whole plan unfolds, you will see what God is up to.

JCLU  REVER

Experiencing God's Plan and Purpose

The Christmas Experience

Week 4

Are these the images you have of Christmas?



Does anybody have this image?



God's Christmas Plans

Caesar Augustus

- **Caesar Augustus was the first ruler of the Roman Empire.**
- **His census order fulfilled a prophecy found in Micah 5:2 that states the Messiah would be born in the village of Bethlehem.**

Luke 2: 1-3

- *2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^l Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
³ And everyone went to their own town to register.*

Joseph, not Caesar

- When Augustus issues his decree, Mary and Joseph have to begin the long journey to Bethlehem from Nazareth (70 miles).
- This makes it obvious that Jesus was not born into comfort, authority or power.



- Jesus' power came from God, not His family.
- This reminds us that Jesus' Kingship is different than any other earthly ruler.

What's in a Name?

Kennedys



- Very wealthy
- Politicians
- Good Irish Family
- Served our country
- Generous
- Scandals
- Entitled
- Fake

Bethlehem, not Rome

- The city of Bethlehem, located about six miles southwest of Jerusalem, is the birthplace of our Savior Jesus Christ. Meaning "house of bread," Bethlehem was also the renowned City of David. It was there in young David's hometown that the prophet Samuel anointed him to be king over Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13).

- *⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2: 4-5*
- **Where we were born may influence peoples' opinions of us.**
- **Being born in Bethlehem shows Jesus' influence came from His words, not His earthly home.**

A Manger, not a Throne

- ⁶ *While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.* Luke 2: 6-7



The Beginning Tells Us A lot

- **Jesus' first crib was a manger, not a throne. He was not royal or powerful at birth. He was born humbly and lowly in an outdoor stable. Jesus is a king, but the kind of king He is stands out in the manger.**
- **When He died on the cross, the same humble beginnings come back to mind as we realize that this king is willing to die for His people.**
- **Jesus was born in a manger to show God's plan and purpose-to save through sacrificial love.**

Jesus' Birth Shows a Different Way of Doing Things

- **Did our family name bring us power and fortune?**
- *“Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. ⁵⁵ “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” ⁵⁷ And they took offense at him. Matt 13:54-57*
- **Did being born in a certain place give you power or fame?**
- ⁴⁶ *“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. John 1: 46*
- **Jesus’ birth shows us that God can relate to being a human.**
- **Jesus’ birth was in stark contrast to the situations kings were usually born into.**
- **Jesus was born into poverty, humility and obscurity. This was all part of God’s plan to show Jesus’ way was different than any other way the people had seen before.**

God's Plan for Jesus

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3: 16