

Day 3 || Big News, Small Package

The Big Idea: Jesus' birth proved that God's values aren't the same as the world's.

Read Luke 2:1-7

- **1** 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 Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to his own town to register. **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. **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 room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

Over the last few years there have been some pretty cool stories of people finding near-priceless treasures in the least likely of places: yard sales. There's the story of the person who paid a few dollars for the painting that turned out to be worth millions. Then there's the guy who bought an old baseball card that was discovered to be one of the rarest cards in existence. *Can you imagine how cool it must have been to find out how valuable these relatively small purchases were?*

These stories illustrate a simple truth: the most valuable things can sometimes be found where you least expect it. But these stories don't hold a candle to the story you just read in Luke 1:2-7. Not even close.

You see, this is the ultimate case of something big, something amazing, showing up in the most unforeseen place.

Think about it . . . Jesus, the Son of God, the King of Kings, the promised Messiah came as a conquering ruler, displaying His power and might, appearing in a palace in front of throngs of crowds, in one of the leading cities in the world . . . *Huh?* Ummm . . . not so much.

Jesus didn't come in any of these ways. He came as a baby, vulnerable and small. He came to one of the most obscure cities you could find. And He was born in a glorified barn, surrounded by livestock. **Not exactly the way a King comes into this world, huh?**

But you see, this is exactly how God works. And it's exactly how God's Kingdom works. God values the low and the lost, the broken and the beat down. Jesus came not to lead the rich and powerful, but to heal the sick and sorrowful. Jesus' mission was and is about redemption. It's a rescue mission.

And it had to start where it started, with a little baby, in a little corner of the world.

THINK ABOUT THIS . . .

- **Do you ever feel pressure to be perfect, or good enough for God? How does it feel knowing that God values and loves you as you are? And that He loves you enough to send His son?**