

THE PRESENCE OF A BABY

180 Church - Matt Raible

Dec. 24, 2023

Luke 2, Matthew 18

Luke 2:4-7 “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 guest room available for them.”

Luke 2:8-12 “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:13-14 “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:15-16 “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.”

Luke 2:20 “The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

Jesus came as a baby to *identify* with us:

1. At our most _____
2. At our most _____
3. At our most _____

Matthew 18:1-4 “At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² He called a little child to Him, and placed the child among them.³ And He said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

LOOK IN:

1. What is the greatest obstacle in your life keeping you from entering the presence of Jesus with the vulnerability of a child?
2. What would it look like for you to lay that obstacle in God's hands?
3. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus tomorrow, what's one thing you can do to put Him first in your life?