**Wehdnesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 26 January 2022**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Key Verse**: **Luke 1:4**

“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

**Home Assignment**

**For Next week:**

* **Read about the Birth of Jesus Christ: Luke 2:1-14**
* **Answer the following questions:**
1. What did Jesus’ claim about Himself in **John 6:35**? How does this relate to the meaning of Bethlehem?

 “And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

1. What reminder does the meaning of “Ephrathah” provide in light of Jesus’ teaching in **John 15:1-8**?

 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

 8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples.

1. What is required to bear the fruit of Christ, according to **John 15:5**?

 "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

1. What is a result of abiding in Christ (being obedient to His Word), according to **John 15:7?**

 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

1. List what is said about the Messiah, Jesus, in **Micah 5:2**. How should we respond in light of this?

 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

1. How is Jesus’ eternal existence as God clearly taught in **Micah 5:2**?

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

1. **Micah 5:2** is one of the many promises God fulfilled in regard to Jesus’ first Advent. What is the nature of God’s promises according to the following passages?
2. **Psalms 12:6**

 “The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.”

1. **2 Peter 1:3-4**

 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1. **2 Peter 3:8-10**

 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

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**Today’s Lesson**

**Luke 2:1–7 (BBC): Birth of the Son of God (2:1–7)**

 1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

* Quirinius *[kwi-rin-e-us]* he was Caius Octavius, grand-nephew, adopted son, and primary heir to Julius Caesar
	+ - * Caesar Augustus puts out an order for everyone to be registered
			* A census for tax purposes—which took place every 14 years
			* The census also took place to register young men for the military—Jews were exempt from serving in the Roman army
* The Birth of Jesus takes place in the middle of the Roman government proving its power over the region

**Luke 2:3-7**

 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into 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 wife, who was with child.

 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

* Joseph was of the house of David
	+ - * David was born in Bethlehem

**1 Samuel 16:1, 11-13**

 “Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

* + - * Joseph had to travel 90 miles from his home to Bethlehem
* Mary travels 90 miles while in her 9th month of pregnancy with Joseph to Bethlehem on a donkey.
	+ - * Perhaps the mountainous terrain added to the fact that she would give birth to Jesus in Bethlehem—as it was prophesied
* Joseph and Mary were already husband and wife by now, but he did not consummate their marriage until after Jesus was born.
* Mary gives birth to Jesus in a stable because there was no room in the Inns because of the census
	+ - * This also fulfilled the Prophecy of Micah—**Micah 5:2**

 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

* According to **verse 7** “she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger
	+ - * Swaddling cloths are strips of cloths used to bind a baby tightly.
			* It kept the baby from injuring sensitive facial skin and eyes with its own sharp fingernails
			* Swaddling cloth was also believed to strengthen the limbs of the child
* The use of swaddling cloth was a sign of a mother’s compassion and parental care for a newborn baby
* Swaddling cloth also symbolizes God’s compassion towards Israel and the world
	+ - * God said Israel was like an abandoned child who didn’t have a parent to show compassion towards her until God showed His love towards them.

**Ezekiel 16:3-5**

 3 "and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: "Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.

 4 "As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling clothes.

 5 "No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born.

* God’s love and compassion was demonstrated by sending His only Son to die for our sins—**John 3:16**

 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

**1 John 4:9**

 “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

Q=How did Christ show his compassion towards you?

Q=How are we to show compassion towards others now that we’ve been forgiven—Read **Ephesians 4:31-32**

 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

* Mary had to lay Jesus in a manger, which is a feeding trough for animals
	+ - * The stable was not a barn for animals
			* Ancient tradition held that Jesus was born in a cave used as a shelter for animals
* This speaks of the humility of Christ throughout his life upon earth

Q=How would you explain the humility of Jesus Christ from the following Scriptures?

* **2 Corinthians 8:9**

 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

* **Philippians 2:5-11**

 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

* **John 13:1-5**

 1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

**Homework: Read Luke 2:8-20**

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