

Immanuel: *The Gift of the King of Love*

Luke 2:1-14

The Setting (v. 1-7)

- Mary & Joseph have traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem
 - Because of Caesar's tax decree (v. 1)
 - Because both were descendants of David
- While they are there, Mary gives birth to Jesus
 - He is laid in a manger because there isn't enough room for the family in the upstairs guest room

The Shepherds (v. 8-9)

- During that time, shepherds were social outcasts
- But these are the same hills that David raised sheep on as a boy
 - The king who was a shepherd

The Message (v. 10-11)

- "Good News": Evangelion/Gospel
- "Of great joy": Which will change one's eternal outlook
- "For all people": Starting with the lowly shepherds, but will affect the whole world (Luke 2:17)
- "In the town of David": fulfilling God's promise (Micah 5:2, c. 735 BC)
- "A Savior has been born": This child will save God's people
- "He is the Messiah, the Lord"
 - He is both Christ/Messiah: God's anointed king from the line of David
 - And Lord: God incarnate
 - The fulfillment of all the promises of Immanuel (Isa 7:11)

The King of Love (v. 12)

- Yet, He will be found in a feeding trough and wrapped in rags (v. 12)
 - Not the expected welcome for a king, much less God incarnate
 - But love meets us where we are
 - Jesus came in poverty and humility because we are poor and humble

The Praise (v. 13-14)

- More angels appear and sing God's praises (v. 13)
- And proclaim that this child has brought God's peace to earth (v. 14)
- And the shepherds spread the word of His birth (v. 17)

So What?

- Jesus is God's gift of love
 - He is the King of the Universe who loved us enough to meet us in our poor and humble humanity
 - He came to show us His great love for us
- He is Immanuel, God with us

Meditation Verse: *John 3:16*