

Hill City Church

Luke - Guide

Luke Part 3 / Week of March 18, 2018

Reading:

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

- **Luke 2:10-12**

Getting Started

Read the above verses

1. Read the above verses.
2. How does reading this verse outside of Christmas affect how you interpret it?
3. How was Christ's humble beginning counter-cultural?

Digging in

During this series, we want people to be able to voice their thoughts and questions; however, we do not want to fill those with answers. As we walk through the book of Luke, we will be confronted with what we think we already know about Jesus versus what the bible says about Jesus. If there are questions that are tough and you do not know the answers immediately, find rest in the wrestling and spend the next week looking for answers. Don't be afraid to reach out for answers. If we can not wrestle through these tough questions together as a group in community, where else can we?

This week we looked at the birth of Jesus outside of a Christmas setting and with a heavy emphasis on the historical context and its implications. To take a deeper look at the culture around the birth of Christ is to better understand the sovereignty of God in that time and now. Take some time as a group to wrestle with the idea of 'sovereignty' and what that means to you.

Going Deeper

- How do you define 'sovereignty'
 - What does it mean that God is sovereign?
 - What would be the implications of God being all-knowing, all-powerful, and sovereign?
 - Do you agree that God can be all three? Is it possible to be all three and atrocities still exist?
- What is sin?
 - Is God still in control even when you sin? Is He surprised when do it?
 - Does God allow us to sin?
 - How can God use you sinning for your good?

Application

1. God is in control

The questions above are simple and straightforward in nature, but are difficult to truly wrap your head around. Throughout history, iterations of this doctrine have been used to oppress and discourage believers and unbelievers alike. What you believe and where you stand in this is essential to how you will handle your own shortcomings and events that happen around you.

- When you sin, do you feel like God is punishing you?
- Do you feel like you have to stop sinning, or cure your habitual problems before you're back in His 'good graces' or before anything 'good' will happen?
 - How is that belief counter to the Gospel?

2. Sovereignty continued

- Read Acts 2:22-24
- Who killed Jesus? (Answer: God)
 - How do you reconcile this?
- How does knowing that the death of Christ was done by the 'definite plan and foreknowledge of God' affect how you view your sin?
 - If God, in Acts, was reaching out to the very people that physically mocked and executed Jesus, what do you think He is doing to you?
 - What about after you sin again?
- What does/is God teaching us in our disobedience?

Reflection

1. If you were to see the look on God's face right now when He looks at you, what would it be?

- a. Why?
- 2. Most Christians feel guilt-ridden and insecure, because they feel like the way God feels about them is based on their most recent spiritual performance, what does the Gospel say to this?
- 3. Knowing that God chose the marginalized (the shepherds) to announce the birth of His son, who can you reach out to during this Easter season?

Take some time now to pray over all of this. In the weight of these things, pray for the people in your life that need to wrestle with this and