

Series: At Last Noel

Title: A Message for the World

Text: (Luke 2:1-20)

NOEL: French from the 14th century - It Means “*Birthday*”
The Celebration Day of “THE BIRTH”.
The Birth that changed everything.

I. Cesar had a Message for the World: (Vs 1-6)

Luke 2:1-2 The Census is declared by Ceazar

And it came to pass in those days, What days?

Final 3 months of Elizabeth’s pregnancy & Birth of John the Baptist.

While Joseph & Mary were figuring out their relationship issues. (Matt 1:18-25)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

For a tax to effective, you have to take a census.
You can’t tax people you don’t know about.

Cesar’s Message was of Indifference!

This decree would disrupt people’s lives.

This decree would cause them to migrate.

This decree would disrupt public works projects.

The decree would disrupt agriculture!

This decree would disrupt trade!

Cesar didn’t care, all he wanted was his Taxes!

II. Joseph’s had a Message for the World: (Luke 2:3-5)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem;

(Micah 5:2) *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

The Census forces the family to travel to Bethlehem.

Tribal people have their identity tied to the land.

We all think like this too.

We think of ourselves in terms of the High school.

Or our college alma mater.

But even more so, where we were raised, not necessarily where we live today.

We still refer to it as “HOME”

“We will head back “home” for a visit.”

We refer to it as home, even though we don’t live there anymore. “*The Old Home Place*” “*My Mom’s House*”

(because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

King David was promised that his descendants would rule Israel for ever. (*2 Sam 7:25*)

Joseph was of the Royal family of David.

Joseph was forced, by an obvious deadline to show up, in person, at Bethlehem to register for the census.

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

Why didn't Joseph see this coming?

Was he just absent minded?

Was he not paying attention? Typical men!

NO! It would take months for the decree to reach Jerusalem.

Then months to Implement and react to it.

Joseph's Message to the World was to patiently Obey God's will.

II. The Inn Keeper had a Message for the World: (Vs 7)

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.

The Inn keepers Message was of Indifference!

He sent that pregnant lady away into the night.

He sent her to shelter in the street, field, or stable.

He didn't care.

He was too busy with Self Interest to care!

Too busy with his own stuff to care.

Imagine the Inn keeper today.

Where ever he is, how do you think he feels?

He slept somewhere that night.

I bet he wishes he could have made a different choice, if he had only known.

What about us, I'm sure we all have those times when we wish we had made different choices, If we had only known. "I'm sorry Jesus! I didn't know it was you!"

What about us. Imagine dying and going to hell, only to realize that you had multiple opportunities to invite Jesus in.

Are We too busy with Self Interest to care!

But What about US? What about ME?

Are we too busy. No Room in our lives.

But We were too distracted, No Room in our hearts.

Too proud to admit we can't do it on our own.

Too Proud to admit, we need Him for everything?

NO ROOM "I'm sorry! I didn't realize I needed you!"

It's when we are too busy for Jesus, we are TOO busy.

Are we TOO busy to Read Our Bible Daily?

Are we TOO busy to Pray Daily?

Are we TOO busy to Attend Church and Sunday School?

Are we TOO busy to Witness & invite people to church?

Is there Room in our heart to live by faith and Tithe?

What can we possibly say? I didn't know it was you?

I didn't know, I thought it was a suggestion.

The Inn keeper's Message to the World was to Ignore God's will, or at best replace God's will with our Own!

III. The Angels had a Message for the World: Lk 2:8-14

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Spring time -

These were shepherds, employed by temple - Passover lambs.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Pretty safe to say, “*They are not from around here!*”

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Message: Fear Not!

Fulfillemnt of prophecy to “ALL PEOPLE!”

Promise to Abraham: (Gen 12:3)

Promised to Isaac: (Gen 26:3-5)

Promised to Jacob: (Gen 28:14-15)

Promised to Judah: (Gen 49:10)

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Message: Great Joy! God has fulfilled His Promise

(Is 9:6) *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The Angel’s Message to the World was to Praise God’s Will.

IV. The Shepherds had a Message for the World

Luke 2:15-20 The Shepherds find Jesus in the Stable.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The Shepherd’s Message to the World was to Seek God’s Will.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Mary, having experienced all this 1st hand, she pondered it. These messages demand a decision.

No decision is a decision!

So what will it be?