



Sacred Stops

Sacred Stops
Arriving on Earth
Luke 2:1-21

Ordinary Census

- “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to 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, who was with child” (Luke 2:1-3).
- Extraordinary Timing
 - “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4).
- God orchestrated an ordinary census with extraordinary timing.

Ordinary Teenager

- “**4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to 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, who was with child” (Luke 2:4-5).
- Extraordinary Favor
 - “**28** And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!’ **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of

greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus'" (Luke 1:28-31).

- God chose an ordinary teenager for extraordinary favor.

Ordinary Birth

- “**6** And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:6-7).
- Extraordinary Child
 - “**18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit’” (Matthew 1:18-20).
- God used an ordinary birth for an extraordinary child.

Ordinary Guests

- “**8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. . . . **15** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ **16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17** And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.” (Luke 2:8, 15-20).
- Extraordinary News
 - “**9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the 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.’ **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 among those with whom he is pleased!’ (Luke 2:9-14).
- God invited ordinary guests to share extraordinary news.

Ordinary Boy

- “And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb” (Luke 2:21).
- Extraordinary Savior
 - “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20).
- God gave an ordinary boy as an extraordinary savior.

God does the most extraordinary work in the most ordinary ways.

- What extraordinary work does God want to do in your life?
- Are you paying attention to God’s ordinary ways?