

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 16, 2018**

**“Do You See What I See?: Advent Prophecies ~**

**Out of Bethlehem”**

**Micah 5:1-5**

“But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days... And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace...” (Micah 5:2-5)

Micah saw the promise of a \_\_\_\_\_ king; the final \_\_\_\_\_. One whose \_\_\_\_\_ were from of old—from ancient days. One who would tend and \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s people like a shepherd cares for its sheep. One who would establish \_\_\_\_\_, security, and \_\_\_\_\_—not just for the people of Judah, but for all nations.

We see the fulfilment of Micah’s prophecy in \_\_\_\_\_.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” (John 10:11-16)

It wasn’t that Micah pinpointed the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah’s birth, it was the location he pinpointed. We miss the point because we lack the context—Bethlehem was the \_\_\_\_\_ place you’d expect anyone of \_\_\_\_\_ to be born—let alone a king and Messiah!

Bethlehem =

**3 POSSIBLE REASONS JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM**

**#1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem—the house of bread—to \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ people.**

Jesus came into the world that first Christmas morning without any fanfare at all—in fact, His birth was hardly noticed—it went unrecognized by most of Bethlehem, not to mention, the rest of the world

The Saviour of the world wasn’t born in a house of \_\_\_\_\_, a house of \_\_\_\_\_, nor a house of \_\_\_\_\_—He wasn’t born in \_\_\_\_\_,

Rome, Athens, or Alexandria. He was born in Bethlehem, the house of bread.

If you think about it, bread is one of life’s most \_\_\_\_\_ things. In fact, every culture and ethnic group in the world has its own form of bread—it’s a \_\_\_\_\_ of life—a relatively accessible \_\_\_\_\_ of every human diet.

Maybe Jesus was born in Bethlehem because God wanted His Son to be \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone. Because He wanted Him to be a \_\_\_\_\_, or staple, of every spiritual diet, if you will?

Jesus’ birth wasn’t announced to the political or religious \_\_\_\_\_, to the rich and famous, or to the high and holy, but to shepherds—to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the low.

You don’t have to be \_\_\_\_\_ to know Jesus; you don’t have to be well-known or \_\_\_\_\_—you can just be you. Jesus is for \_\_\_\_\_.

“You are all God’s children by believing in Christ Jesus... There are neither Jews nor Greeks, slaves nor free people, males nor females. You are all the same in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)

That Jesus was born in Bethlehem—the house of bread—gives us \_\_\_\_\_ that God indeed wants us all to be His children, no matter how \_\_\_\_\_ we may seem to ourselves or to those around us.

All we have to do is \_\_\_\_\_ Him!

**#2. Jesus was born in Bethlehem—the house of bread—to \_\_\_\_\_ our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” (John 6:35)

We were all made with a \_\_\_\_\_ hole within us—a hole that only God can \_\_\_\_\_.

“You have made us to be with you O, God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” (Augustine)

Our hearts are on a \_\_\_\_\_—a search to find \_\_\_\_\_ and peace in God. For some people this restless heart syndrome last’s a \_\_\_\_\_, as they continually seek to fill the God-shaped hole within them with other things—with \_\_\_\_\_ affections—things like passions, \_\_\_\_\_, position,

performance, \_\_\_\_\_, places, and \_\_\_\_\_. Things that might bring joy and \_\_\_\_\_, but only \_\_\_\_\_, leaving them frustrated and more empty—and then the \_\_\_\_\_ begins again and the cycle continues.

Bread is a great \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus because He's the only One who can truly \_\_\_\_\_ our deepest needs and desires—He is our \_\_\_\_\_ piece—and Jesus alone satisfies, gratifies, nourishes, and \_\_\_\_\_ us.

“Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.” (Isaiah 55:2)

Instead of wasting our time and \_\_\_\_\_, indeed our entire lives—running around trying to fill ourselves with stuff that can't satisfy, we need to heed Isaiah's advice—Jesus is all we need for \_\_\_\_\_ satisfaction and sustenance.

The same is \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual food—the same is true of Jesus. We can't live off the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of someone else—our parents, spouse, or mentor.

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh.” (John 6:51)

Jesus offers us Himself—He offers us His \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ Bread. He invites us to be \_\_\_\_\_ and strengthened by Him. However, no one can eat for us; and we need to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus for ourselves. We need to choose to fill our hearts, minds, and lives with \_\_\_\_\_, and not all the other things this \_\_\_\_\_ offers.

The fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem—the house of bread—gives us confidence that God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ our spiritual hunger—our deepest needs and \_\_\_\_\_.

All we have to do is \_\_\_\_\_!

**#3. Jesus was born in Bethlehem—the house of bread—to show us that God can use \_\_\_\_\_ things to accomplish \_\_\_\_\_ purposes.**

Bethlehem only had one note to play in the orchestration of God's \_\_\_\_\_ plan, but it was an \_\_\_\_\_ one! It provided the backdrop—the locale and \_\_\_\_\_—for the birth of the most important person in the world!

God still chooses small, seemingly \_\_\_\_\_ people, places, and

events to bring about His greatest \_\_\_\_\_. In doing so, He takes the b \_\_\_\_\_, assumptions, and understandings of the world and flips them \_\_\_\_\_. And in \_\_\_\_\_ ways, and through unassuming people, God continues to carry out His \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.

God doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ the day of small things.

Often the most \_\_\_\_\_ people in God's kingdom are those who serve in the \_\_\_\_\_ things.

**Are you making the mistake of bypassing "little" opportunities, because you're looking for some "big" responsibility to fall into your lap?**

“Don't wait to do a great thing—the opportunity may never come. But since little things are constantly claiming your \_\_\_\_\_, do them for a great motive—for the glory of God.” (F.B. Meyer)

“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:17)

God knew exactly what He was \_\_\_\_\_ when He chose Bethlehem as the place where His Son would be born. It was a sign that He can use even the smallest \_\_\_\_\_ thing to accomplish something \_\_\_\_\_.

All we have to do is make ourselves \_\_\_\_\_!



**Do you see what Micah saw?**

God's choice of Bethlehem beautifully illustrates the true \_\_\_\_\_ of His Son. He could have arrived with \_\_\_\_\_, yet He chose to be born as a \_\_\_\_\_ baby in an insignificant and \_\_\_\_\_ town. In a world that values \_\_\_\_\_ and strength; prestige and \_\_\_\_\_—God comes veiled in \_\_\_\_\_.

“Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

When God chooses, He chooses \_\_\_\_\_, in order to magnify the glory of His own \_\_\_\_\_, not the glory of our \_\_\_\_\_.

We get the \_\_\_\_\_. God gets all the \_\_\_\_\_.