

The 4th Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 20, 2020

“Prepare Him Room: The Bread”

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 of 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 _____, 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 _____!



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 _____.