

christmas at life church

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Ever had a bad day?



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Luke 2.1-7

“It came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also

Luke 2.1-7

“went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while

Luke 2.1-7

“they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 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.”

Ever had a bad day?

- Bad enough that it's tax day...
- And the tax office is in another city...
- That you can only get to by mule train...
- But you're nine months pregnant...
- And it's time... right now...

Ever had a bad day?

- And there is no hospital-ity room...
- All taken up with tax revelers...
- Just a barn, with a feeding trough...
- And no 'mom or sisters,' 'baby shower' or things familiar for her 1st child experience...
- Just some rags for his onesie!

**Is this the way a
promised life from God
is supposed to look?**

The God Promised life...

“Jesus is set for the fall and rising of many, and a sign which will be spoken against that the hearts of many will be revealed (and yes, a sword will pierce your own soul).” **Luke 2.34,35**

“Great things we (at times) suffer for His name’s sake.” **Acts 9.16**

And Yet...

“In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, made of a woman... to redeem those who were under the law... to give them the adoption of sons, and because we are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, **Abba, Father!**” **Galatians 4.4-6**

And Yet...

“To everything there is a season and time to every purpose under heaven... and God has made everything appropriate in its time!” **Ecclesiastes 3.1-8, 11**

“This is the day that the Lord has made...” **Ps 118.24**

What?

- **Stigma surrounding her pregnancy and their marriage!**
- **Totally out of her comfort zone!**
- **No zone for comfort at all!**
- **Everything says, “This is not the day, the time, the place...”**
- **For this promised miracle... BUT...**

**Bad day's, bad timing,
perfect settings for
miracles!**

Perspective...

- God has been at work a very long time on this one miracle moment...
 - Could Mary see/understand the convergence of all the factors?
 - *Religious, political, cultural, philosophical climates aligned...*
 - *And that she was born in her little world to change the whole world?*

Perspective...

- God has been at work a very long time on this one miracle moment...
 - Could Mary see/understand the convergence of all the factors?
 - Could she know? Could you know?
 - Can you see what God is doing on the broad scale of your life?
 - And what miracle is coming next?

Perspective...

- God has been at work a very long time on this one miracle moment...
 - Her puzzle only needed a few more pieces to reveal the face of God...
 - But, “We know that God works ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE *who love Him, who are called according to His purpose!*”

Romans 8.28

Perspective...

- God has been at work a very long time on this one miracle moment...
 - Her puzzle only needed a few more pieces to reveal the face of God...
 - *Did He hold out the hardest pieces to place last so that the hardest part would last the least amount of time?*
 - *HMMMMMM?*

Perspective...

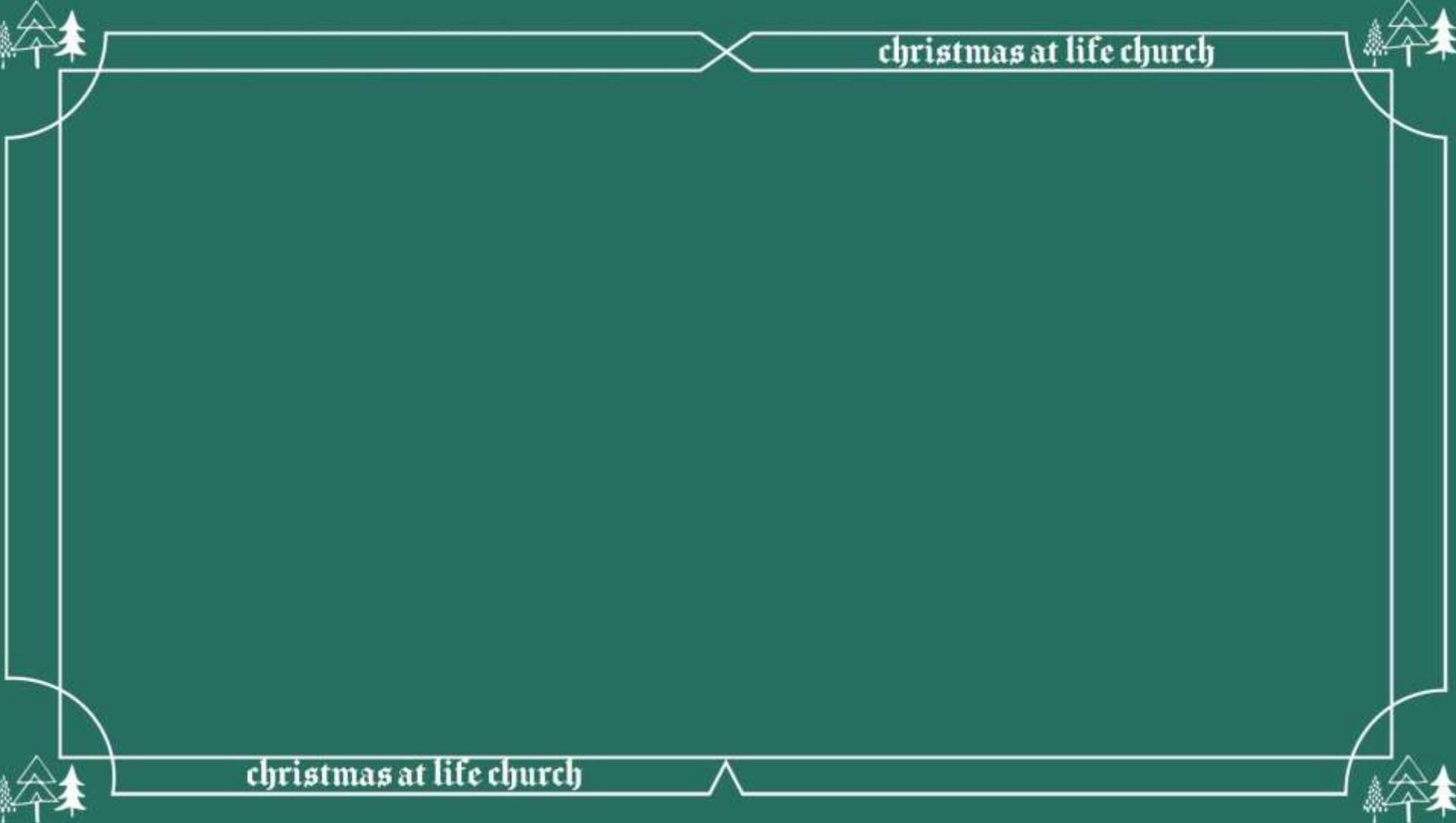
- God has been at work a very long time on this one miracle moment!
- We don't have to see the handiwork of God, we only need to see Him!
- As Mary is at the perfect place for her miracle, so are we many times!
- But what we say and do next... has great impact on the outcome!

**What I see is not all
there is... and I
*believe it!***

The steps of the
righteous are ordered
by God... and I
trust Him!

**'Just believing' can lead
to my miracle... and I
*receive it!***

***The promises of God
are good on any
kind of day!***

A white line border on a dark green background. The border has decorative corners with stylized evergreen trees. The text "christmas at life church" is written in a white, serif font at the top and bottom center of the border.

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