

WEEK 18:

THE KING'S LOWLY ENTOURAGE

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 2:1-21

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 9:1-7, Micah 5:2, Philippians 2:1-11,
Galatians 4:4-5, Revelation 21:1-5

"We are not out of the way of divine visits when we are sensibly employed in an honest calling, and abide with God in it."

– Matthew Henry

"The most significant gifts in the church's life in every era are ordinary natural abilities sanctified."

- J.I. Packer

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:1-7 and Luke 2:1-7. Consider the prophecies from Isaiah 9:1-7 and Micah 5:2. How do you see these fulfilled in Jesus' birth?

When have you seen God fulfill promises in your life? When are you most tempted to believe that your proficiency or performance are required for you to earn God's faithfulness?

Imagine the reality of giving birth in a manger and laying a newborn in an animal's feeding trough. What kind of real life problems did Mary and Joseph face as a young couple?

Read Luke 2:8-20. What kind of people are shepherds? What do you know of farming lifestyle? Would shepherds have been likely guests for a king's birth? Why or why not?

Read Philippians 2:1-11. Jesus descended from the highest glory of heaven to the low of taking human form complete with a birth in a barn and an entourage of farmers to celebrate. How does God's humility reveal His glory? How do our insecurities prevent us from being willing to humble ourselves?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

What kind of people do you gravitate toward? Why? What characteristics make you respect and want to spend time with someone? What characteristics repel you from someone?



Read Luke 2:8-14. What is the significance of God inviting small-time, blue collar, lowly shepherds to be the celebrating crowd at one of the greatest, most important and glorious events in the history of the world? What things make me feel significant?

Read Isaiah 7:14 and Revelation 21:1-5. How do we seek to define our identity from the people around us? How do God's promises in the gospel free us up to associate with anyone, regardless of what they offer to our social standing?



Read Luke 2:19. What kind of things do you ponder or think deeply about? What do you find yourself daydreaming about?

How can we practically encourage each other to think deeply on Jesus' humility in his birth, life and death throughout the busyness of the Christmas season?

