

No Ordinary Day

Part 4 A Loud **Emperor** and a Quiet **King**

Luke 2:1-7

Galatians 4:4; *'But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son...'*

A Loud **EMPEROR**

vs. 1-5

His family **ANCESTRY** was loud: Julius Caesar, Mark Anthony, Cleopatra

His **DEMANDS** were loud: many **decrees** and **censuses**

His **ACCOMPLISHMENTS** were loud:

*'I found Rome a city of **clay** but left it a city of **marble**'*

His **SELF-WORTH** was loud: '... a **savior** of the common folk'

A Quiet **KING**

vs. 6-7

His quiet **FAMILY**: **poor**, **engaged** parents from **Nazareth**

His quiet birth **LOCATION**: A **barn** in **Bethlehem**

His quiet **ARRIVAL**: clothed in **swaddling** clothes, laid in a feeding **manger**

His quiet **EGO**: He didn't **fight** about His role or position

Phil. 2:5-7

Key: A heart and life of **HUMILITY** leads to
more 'NO ORDINARY DAYS'

Auburn Grace Community Church – December 22nd, 2024

Group Discussion Questions – December 22, 2024

Galatians 4:4 *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son ...*

DISCOVER

1. What were the main reasons for Augustus Caesar to call a census? Caesar liked to remind everyone they were his subjects. How does God remind us that we are His?
2. In order to accomplish his goals, Caesar had to raise taxes repeatedly. In order to do good, what does Jesus need? What do you need to do the will of God?
3. Which lifestyle is most commonly taught in society today, a loud or quiet lifestyle? What does a humble or quiet Christian look like? See Ephesians 4:2, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Luke 14:11, and Micah 6:8. Contrast humble Jesus with the loud approach of Caesar Augustus.
4. The birth of Jesus initiated a plan that was far beyond random circumstances aligning. Share with each other the divine appointments that God orchestrated in the birth of Jesus including acts of Caesar.
5. As we look at the details of the Christmas story there should be an understanding that every detail is planned out and purposeful. If this is true, what does Caesar Augustus have to do with the birth of Jesus? Luke spends time introducing us to Caesar and his census of 4 B.C. Is this narrative simply to tell us the why of Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem or something more? Explain your reasoning.

EXPLORE

1. Read Luke 2:1-7. How would you describe the reputation of Caesar Augustus? What happened to those who did not bow the knee to Caesar when he gave an edict? How did the Roman Empire introduce its brand of conflict into the world? Augustus was sometimes called the savior of common folk. Keep this in mind as you continue with the following point.
2. Describe the common or lowly circumstances surrounding Mary and Joseph including the location of the birth of Jesus.
3. Read Galatians 4:1-7. Without presuming to know the mind of God, what was perfect about the timing of the birth of Jesus? What great conflicts had developed in man's approach to living out a relationship with God prior to the coming of Jesus? Which of those continue today?

EXPERIENCE

1. In what ways does Jesus continue to stir conflict in the world? How does Jesus introduce conflict into the hearts of individuals? Jesus offers peace, and not just peace that comes from an absence of conflict. What will it take for there to be peace on earth? Is there peace in your heart at this moment? If not, then what do you know about the love of Jesus that would carry you through your time of trouble?
2. What will be different about the second arrival of Jesus? With specifics, explain why that won't be an ordinary day.
3. Read or sing the attached lyrics of Casting Crown's song, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day which was inspired by the poem written by Henry Longfellow.

PRAY

Father, that You would send Your Son in such humble fashion was such a stark contrast to the powerful rulers of the time and still today. All too often, we allow loud voices to dominate our thinking when we should listen to still small voices that whisper truths in our souls. At Christmas we want to be like little children that are filled with wonder for a God that loves and saves. Immanuel, come again. Hasten the day of peace on earth. In Your timing, may it be so. Amen.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on Earth, good will to men

And the bells are ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir they're singing (peace on Earth)
In my heart I hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men

And in despair I bowed my head
"There is no peace on Earth," I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on Earth, good will to men

But the bells are ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir singing (peace on Earth)
Does anybody hear them? (Peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men

Then rang the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep
(Peace on Earth)
(Peace on Earth)
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on Earth, good will to men

Then ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on Earth, good will to men

And the bells, they're ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir they're singing (peace on Earth)
And with our hearts, we'll hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men

Do you hear the bells, they're ringing? (Peace on Earth)
The light, the angels singing (peace on Earth)
Open up your heart and hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men

Peace on Earth
Peace on Earth
Peace on Earth, good will to men