

What You Can Learn in Bethlehem

**Emmanuel Baptist Church
December 24, 2017**

Micah 5:2 (CSB) –

“Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times.”

1. From Joseph and Mary we learn what tough faith really is.

Matthew 1:18-21, 24-25 (CSB) -

The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not

*wanting to disgrace her publicly,
decided to divorce her secretly.*

*²⁰But after he had considered
these things, an angel of the
Lord appeared to him in a dream,
saying, “Joseph, son of David,
don’t be afraid to take Mary as
your wife, because what has*

been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

. . .

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord’s angel had

*commanded him. He married her
25but did not have sexual
relations with her until she gave
birth to a son. And he named him
Jesus.*

**2. From the angels
and shepherds we
learn the good news
of Jesus is a message
we can't hold to
ourselves.**

Luke 2:1–18 (CSB) - *In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered.²This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.³So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.*

⁴Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, ⁵to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. ⁶While

they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸In the same region, shepherds

were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will

be for all the people: ¹¹Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

14 Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and peace on earth to people he favors! ...

15 When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

16 They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger.

17 After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

**3. From the Wise Men
we learn God can be
found, but you must
follow the light He
gives you, always
seeking for more.**

Matthew 2:1–11 (CSB) - After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him.”

7Then Herod ... sent them to Bethlehem ...

9After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was.

***10** When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy.*

***11** Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*