

# What is My Response to Jesus<sup>1</sup> (The Birth of Jesus)

February 7, 2021

Luke 2:1-21

*And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" <sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.*

**Luke 2:1-20**

Jesus' birth brought various responses! His birth, life, death and resurrection brought and continues to bring various responses as well. This morning we ask, "What is my response to Jesus? How does it affect my daily living?"

Do you know that the Birth of Jesus is not only spoken of in the Bible, but in other places and through other people? In other words, there are other historical documents that speak of the Birth of Jesus.

**Jesus' birth drew Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7).**

Augustus Caesar was ruling, but God was in charge, for He used Caesar's edict to move Mary and Joseph eighty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to fulfill His Word. Rome took a census every fourteen years for both military and tax purposes, and each Jewish male had to return to the city of his fathers to record his name, occupation, property, and family. ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

*Bethlehem* means "house of bread," the ideal birthplace for the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

Mary's response to Jesus birth was **obedience**. "*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.*" (Luke 1:38)

Joseph's response at first was to bow out because of respect for Mary. However, after being visited by the angel Joseph saw the bigger picture. Joseph **obeyed** and married Mary. (Matthew 1:19, 24)

We can only think or imagine what Mary and Joseph would have gone thru.

Is my response to God **complete** obedience?

**Jesus' birth drew angels from Heaven (Luke 2:7-14).**

The angels' response was to **praise** God.

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."*

**Luke 2:13**

Is my response to God that of **praise**? Remember, we worship the Lord for two main reasons; what He has done and Who He is.

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<sup>1</sup> Portion of outline taken from Warren Wiersbe, BE Series.

**Jesus' birth drew shepherds from the fields (Luke 2:15-20).**

The shepherds' response was to get the word out concerning Jesus' birth and to glorify Him.

*Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning the child.* **Luke 2:17**

Then the shepherds returned, glorying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. **Luke 2:20**

These shepherds are good examples for us to imitate today. They received by faith the message God sent them and then responded with immediate obedience. After finding the Baby, they reported the good news to others, "glorifying and praising God." *They took the place of the angels!* Then they humbly returned to their duties, new men going back to the same old job.

Is my response to get the word **out** about Jesus and praise Him? Really think on this, do I get the word out about my Savior?

"The Gospel is designed to travel through people, not projects." David Platt

**Jesus' birth drew Magi from the east (Matthew 2:1-12).**

*And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasure, they presented Him; gold, frankincense and myrrh.* **Matthew 2:16**

The Magi's response was to worship the Lord and bring Him gifts.

Is my response to worship the Lord? Is my response to use the gifts He has given me to serve Him and others?

**Jesus' birth brought hostility out of Herod (Matthew 2:12-18).**

*Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.* **Matthew 2:16**

Herod's response was that he sought to kill Jesus. Herod was jealous and also sought to silence the "good news." It didn't work.

Is my response to Jesus that of "**hostility**"?

This morning what is my response to Jesus? What am I doing with Jesus? How or what is Jesus leading me to? Am I being obedient or hostile to God's plan?

2000 years later the birth of Jesus is still drawing people. It has caused some people to fully surrender themselves. It has caused some committing their whole life to prove that Jesus was a fake or just another man. It has caused others heartache that if they accept or trust in Jesus then things will have to change.

The right response is to call out for Jesus' grace, walk in it, die to our self and serve Him.

Response to Jesus always calls for an action, to what action has God called you? Remember, an "inaction" is an action itself.

We say what we think, we do what we believe.

**Prayer Focus:**

- **I would obey the Lord.**
- **I will praise and worship the Lord for who He is what He has done. (Rejoice in the Lord)**
- **I would get the word out about Jesus. (Engage others)**