



AUTO-SERMON TRANSCRIPT

How do we respond when God interrupts the normal flow of our life?

The Humble King 4 of 5 from December 24th, 2023

"Our King reverses the natural current of creation by humility."

Luke 1-2 by Michael Lockstampfor (@miklocks)

<https://www.ocalaneighborhood.church/watch-a-message/the-humble-king-4-how-do-we-respond-when-god-interrupts-the-normal-flow-of-our-life>

PLEASE NOTE: transcript is generated automatically and may not be completely accurate.

[Music]

can you say Dr Luke yeah okay that's not a hard Bible name of all the Bible names that I could give you I felt like this was a pretty easy one um Dr Luke is a guy who uh he was a physician he did some traveling and he actually ends up writing more verses of what we call the New Testament than any other single author he kept meticulous notes he was very detail oriented um and he and he begins to write down this letter so I'd like to show you the beginning of this letter that he's writing um in Luke chapter 1 um and if you'd like to follow along with me I'm going to be in Luke chapters 1 and two um it's on page 1066 here in the blue Bibles and Dr Luke writes uh kind of an interesting introduction I'll read it to you in as much we're already interested in as much as many have undertaken to compile A Narrative of the things that have been accomplished Among Us just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and Ministers of the word have delivered them to us it seemed good to me also having followed all things closely for some time past to write an orderly account for you most excellent Theophilus that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been T now does that sound like Christmas magic to anybody else like that's exactly not Christmas that's in as much as many have undertaken to compile a narrative there's a lot of people who have tried to write these things down um and and and but it seemed to me good to write it down in order like there's lots of people who've written some things they've taken journals there different compositions that have different strengths and weaknesses but there's nobody who like actually put things in a logical order and I just wanted to put put it in order uh which sounds a lot like a a doctor hopefully on on a good day right might not be able to read what he's writing but at least he's trying to put it in order right um so Dr Luke is compiling these testimonies of I Witnesses um that he is uh that he's interviewed of these things that have happened he's trying to write a biography of the life of a man that we called Jesus and he wants to do it in a logical and a systematic and an orderly way he's going to people and he's having interviews and talking with them about the things that they personally saw and so he's got the ability to collaborate corroborate cor that's the right word corroborate corroborate witnesses to say this is probably what happened and I'm going to write it down in a logical order um he might be doing this uh as evidence in a legal case um this might be a rough draft of a legal brief it's not really clear exactly what but but he writes this down logical and in order um and really because we I've already told you we're talking about Jesus I just want you to know there's nothing comparable in world history to any other religious or political figure in history there we don't have eyewitnessed

testimonies of the birth stories of literally almost any other historical figure across history like talk talk poit talk politics talk Roman government talk Greeks uh even talking American presidents like we we don't have these kinds of documentation and yet we have it for this man that we call Jesus so um if I if I may on Christmas Eve like go to Dr Luke for a little bit of grounding can we do that together this morning okay good Andre is here with me let's uh said a lot of said a lot of words already um but let's pray together before we continue on um it's our habit to pray together the disciples prayer and so the words are there on the screen if you'd like to pray together with me out loud but at the very least let's bow our hearts together um and and pray

this Our Father in heaven Hallowed Be Your Name Your Kingdom Come your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debt letters and lead us not into temptation but Deliver Us from Evil for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever amen so let's continue reading in Dr Luke's orderly account we're going to be in Luke chapter 1 and I'm going to skip a couple verses and be in verse 26 so um in the Bible you've got Luke as the title of the book and then you've got a big chapter heading which is the giant one then there's Little Numbers beside almost every other sentence and those are the verse numbers so go to Luke chapter 1 and then scroll your eyes down to verse 26 um and if you're using the blue Bibles there's a heading there that says the birth of Jesus foretold okay so I'm going to pick up reading there in the sixth month the a hold on the angel hold on wait a second doctor for real like I thought thought we were doing logical and orderly and you're and you're 26 verses in and we're talking to Angels okay just want you to know like he's trying to put this in logical order he's talked to people who were there all right let's continue in the sixth month of uh the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph of the House of David and the virgin's name was Mary and he came to her and said Greetings oh favored one the Lord is with you but she was greatly troubled at the saying and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be and the angel said to Hero not be afraid Mary for you have found favor with God and behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus he will be great and he will be called son of the most high and the Lord God will give to him the Throne of his father the Throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever and his kingdom there will be no end and Mary said to the angel how will this be since I am a virgin and the angel answered her the holy spirit will come upon you and the power of the most high will overshadow you therefore the child to be born will be called holy the Son of God and behold your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son and this is the six month with her who was called Baron and Mary said behold I am the servant vant of the Lord let it be to me according to your word and the angel departed from her so we've got two uh two folks in this interaction two characters that are that are interacting with the first is an Angel um and Angels when they show up um are are like as the Bible presents them they're Messengers from God they're spiritual entities they they literally exist um and the I don't know how to really articulate all the Realms and things like that we actually just did a sermon series it's been a month or so ago called angels and demons and so if you've got questions about angels that resource is there for you on our podcast to talk about um their nature and things like that but but something that's consistent is that when Angels show up people are terrified so if if when I say angel you think cherub um and you kind of want to pinch his cute little cheeks like the baby in the front row like that's not that's not how Angels show up like when they roll in they have have to tell whoever they're talking to don't be scared don't freak out because they're scary they're frightening Spiritual Beings they're they when they walk in the room you just kind of know that you're in the presence of

something that's greater than you so when the angel shows up they got say hey don't freak out don't be afraid because I'm here and I've got good news to tell you but like the the message is coming from somebody who's who's frightening and you've got a girl named Mary so she is betrothed which means she's engaged to be married um and she's a virgin which means they have not had sex yet right so which is not a given in our culture but for but for them like when they said engagement um there that actually is like a legal qualification like their their engagement was actually much more legally binding than ours because there was going to be a a a formal transaction that that was going to take place and so if if you proposed marriage you had to actually like put a down payment down um with the dad before all this stuff so like for them to be engaged for her to be pure like this is a kind of a big deal but what that tells us for us who are kind of looking through the window into the history um what that tells us is that she was probably really young um probably younger than we'd anticipate 13 14ish just a a a young girl and and she's going about her life and suddenly there's an angel that pops up in a room who's like hey don't be afraid and she's like I wasn't until you showed up like why are you here he says Mary's been chosen she's found favor she has found favor with with the Lord but I'm I'm not entirely sure she was looking for it like I kind of think she was just kind of doing her thing she's looking forward like maybe looking forward to being married and and getting to move out of her parents house and get on with the next phase of her life like she's in that season of transition of like something's happening and maybe it's exciting maybe it's it's frightening but but she's there and and the angel shows up and says hey you found favor with God and she's like I don't know that I was looking for it but thanks I guess she was concerned and tried to discern what kind of greeting this was he says you're GNA have a son you've got a you've got a son forthcoming which she's maybe thinking about her future dreaming about what could be and so he says to her behold you're you're going to have a son and you're going to call him Jesus and he's going to be great and he'll be called the son of the most high God and like well that that's a lot to kind of put on a child at before he's born like and and how is this even going to work because i' I haven't had sex I'm this this has I I am a virgin like I haven't done this like are we talking about something now or are we talking about something later I think that's a legitimate question cuz she's on the eve of being married and and and maybe she thinks this is a message for the future and he says actually no like this is going to happen now before you're married or the wedding has been consummated like you're going to have a son you're going to have a supernatural

conception and she was just living her life she was just going through whatever wedding planning whatever she needed to do doing her chores and and now the Angels there and say actually I'm getting ready to to interrupt everything that you thought you were doing and you're going to do something different but it's favor from the

lord it's interesting too to me that as as the angel drops kind of this this bomb in the middle of her life of like well now you're pregnant and there are a whole lot of emotional and social baggages that go along with what you're getting ready to experience you're going to have to tell your betroth that you're pregnant and you also haven't been unfaithful like this is going to be a problem for you going forward um but as the angel drops this bomb into her life did you notice and behold verse 36 and behold your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son a six-month with her who will be called Baron that's actually where we started I skipped it back in 26 but in the sixth month it's not the sixth month of the year it's the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy so this so the angel knows that this bomb that's being dropped in the middle of Mary's life is is is is uh not happening in isolation from what God's doing in other people's lives as he drops this bomb he says hey by the way there's

something crazy going on in Elizabeth's life too you probably need to check in with her because you're at the you're at the front end of this pregn thing like you're going into the first trimester you're going to be morning sickness with all that kind of stuff but Elizabeth she's in the last trimester and she's old like she was past all of this and now she's having a baby and now she's eating all the ice cream in the house and she just has all these feelings she's in the last trimester and she just can't so Elizabeth has some things going on and while you have this new bomb that you're trying to sort out hey there's somebody who's just a couple of steps ahead of you that maybe you should go and spend some time with because God doesn't leave us Al alone to sort stuff out he surrounds us with the team that we

need but how do we respond when God interrupts the normal flow of Our

Lives she was going along and doing her thing and now she's got this to deal with how do we respond when God interrupts the normal flow of our life sometimes it's fear I don't know what's happening here I I thought this career path was really going to work out and and now what are we going to do like what does the future look like I don't know how we're going to make things work maybe maybe that uh turns into anger like I thought we were I had all this planned out and I did all this hard work and I had all these things lined up and now none of the things that I planned are working and God I'm blaming you you're the one who's interrupting me you're the one who's diverting me this was the way I was going and now you're in my way

maybe all of that just gets overwhelming and we're just discouraged like oh well I can't go where I thought I was going that plan isn't going to work out and so I guess I'll just stay in bed because it's easier than having to deal with all

this verse 39 and Mary said behold I'm a servant of the Lord let it be to me according to your word Mary trusts God's plan when she doesn't completely understand

it because the thing that is happening in creation is creation was made good and was diverted by sin and so all of the pain is is part of the natural course of of living in a fallen world but God's plan is not to Red diert it back to where it ought to have been our King reverses the natural current of creation he's sending the water back uphill he's restoring something that was

broken and Mary trusts God's plan when she doesn't completely understand it there's a lot in chapter 1 a lot of conversations there's some cool stuff happening in Elizabeth's household and I'd encourage you to read it but I'm not going to do that this morning um we're going to jump straight to chapter two so if you flip over the page to chapter 2 page

1069 we'll read in verse one in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered this was the first registration when curus was governor of Syria and all went to be registered each to his own town and Joseph also went up From Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea to the city of David which is called Bethlehem because he was of the house and lineage of David to be registered with Mary his betrothed who was with child and while they were there the time came for her to give birth so she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a Manger because there was no place for them in the end so this is I we talked about it briefly last night but this is tax season the reason they're traveling the reason they're on the road is because the government wants their money so they're taking a registration they're taking a

census so that they can know how much people are supposed to be taxed um can I I'm we started with Dr Luke we're going to be grounded it probably didn't happen in December probably December 25th is probably not when these things took place so sorry and so he travels back he travels back to Bethlehem which is kind of where his family had grown up and and Bethlehem is a small City a small town um kind of on the outskirts of of Jerusalem and what they had done is they had specialized in um in raising sheep specifically for the temple in Jerusalem so uh I don't know if you've ever thought about if there's a temp Temple where they sacrifice sheep all the time like they have a need for sheep and so this cottage industry had kind of developed in this town of Bethlehem where where they would raise sheep to be slaughtered at the temple in in Bethlehem um and so that's where they go uh they're they go back to this uh this Village back to his hometown and there wasn't room for them in the normal place where they would stay um and I I mean I already told you it didn't happen in December so it probably wasn't an in um it probably was just the difference between the front of the house and the back of the house so you can actually well not today um I guess you could but you can go to Bethlehem and there are houses in Bethlehem that are from this time period and they actually look they actually look more like caves because they are actually caves they've got a really fancy name for them it's called cave style dwelling and and it it's really simple they've got a big room in the front and then they've got a smaller room they've kind of carved in the back and so what they would do is they would they would do all of their family stuff in the front and the back was kind of like a storage room but in the winter time they'd bring the animals in and put the animals in the back and animals produce a lot of things and one of the things they produce is heat and so if you had animals inside in the winter time um you could heat the rest of the home is actually kind of brilliant like people are not dumb in this time period And so when there's no room for them in the end that means everybody came home and they were occupying the place for would normally sleep so they cleaned out the store room in the back of the house and let them stay in the back which tells you there weren't animals there which means it wasn't cold which means it's probably not December I'm sorry I

just but for like I have to explain this to you but for them this was normal the reason why there aren't a ton of details in the text is because they just like lived there and this was their normal life it's just like how would you describe what a Wednesday looks like in your world like you would not go into detail about the fact that there's a sink in your kitchen because that's where you watch you would say I wash the dishes at home well what does that mean to somebody who doesn't live in our time period and doesn't know like that the sinks are traditionally kept in the kitchen like it's just we don't put the details in because it's just part of our normal day but they were going about their normal day they were dealing with the government like the slow and tedious process of paying taxes before the internet and I don't know that the internet actually helped but how

here's the point how are we looking for God's hand in the ordinary moments of our lives like this this is the story of an infant being born my kids asked me the other day they said are babies born every single day of the year I said yeah babies are born every single day of the year this is ordinary this is normal stuff this folks trying to deal with taxes and government and having babies and just trying to make life work this is not special so how are we looking for God's hand in the ordinary moments of our day God doesn't just meet us in church on Sunday like his presence permeates all of creation and so he is there in the kitchen with the dishes I have to remind myself of

that our King reverses the natural current of creation by humility well where where do you get humility from Michael let's just read a little bit more we'll pick up in verse

eight Luke chapter 2:8 and in the same region there were shepherds out in the field keeping watch over their flock by night and an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with great fear and the angel said to them fear not for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people for unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior who is Christ the lord and this will be a sign for you you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace among those with whom he is pleased when the angels went away from them into heaven the Shepherds said to one another let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us and they went and with haste found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger and when they saw it they made known the saying that the child uh the saying that had been told them concerning this child and all who heard it wondered at what the Shepherds told them but Mary treasured up all these things in her heart and pondering them in her heart and the Shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told them and at the end of eight days when he was circumcised he was called Jesus the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb so all this is going on normal ordinary stuff a little bit stressful for Mary I'll give it that but it's average things and in a field nearby there's a group of shepherds which is not actually unusual for this area um but the thing that strikes me is like these are these are solid normal d like these you could probably call these guys like shepher Joe's like the things you should know about Shepherds is that they work really hard they they they have to manually do a lot of things uh to take care of sheep because sheep are real dumb I thought I'd get an amen from the Gagnon house the Gagnon have just adopted a sheep and they are astonished at how stupid this thing is like they're real dumb they they if they don't if they skip a meal if they forget to eat then they lose seven pounds skipping one meal like I would kill for that but this sheep like this sheep needs you to feed it right if you don't feed it then it dies okay sheep are real dumb so these these shepherds are hard workers they're simple guys and they are dedicated they they work 24/7 they're in the field watching their sheep at night because the Sheep can't even be trusted to sleep safely and so they're out doing their job they're working the third shift and suddenly this herald angel pops up to give a royal pronouncement an angel a messenger from God shows up with this this Royal pronouncement which is odd because there's there's no royalty to Proclaim to he's not talking to the Hoi toyy of Jerusalem the he doesn't call upon the high priest to say hey you should know that God is doing something he doesn't he doesn't call like the famous rabbis and and get them together so that that they they can hear first that God is doing something unprecedented in the world he doesn't even pick Prime Time television he comes in the middle of the night to say hey Shepherd Joe you should know that God's did something tonight that's going to change the course of history

forever

fear not don't freak out I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people for unto you is Born This Day in the city of David a savior who is Christ the lord now we call him Jesus Christ whether we're saying it in church or whether we're cursing under our breath we call him Jesus Christ as though Christ is his last name but Christ is not last name it's a title it's it's a Greek translation of a Hebrew word the Greek word Christos translates the Hebrew

word messiah which we would understand as Messiah which is cool but what does that mean it actually it means anointed it means one who's been selected one who's been chosen so it says there's a savior who is the Christ who is The Chosen One the Messiah he's the one who has showed up today he's God's chosen king and the birth announcement of the king of creation is displayed at midnight to some Joe's in the middle of the field trying to stay awake working third

shift will we have humble ears to hear the most important news about God's

work I I take this role seriously but I'm aware that God does not need somebody who's well polished well somebody who's moderately polished and able to speak to Proclaim his good news and the odds are if God was going to do something miraculous in Okala I don't know that he would tell me as much as he would tell you will we have humble ears to hear the most important news about God's work should we should not assume that the religious leading is is a requirement for God to interrupt our life or to pronounce the good work that he wants to do in the world he entrusts this Royal message to guys who have never even thought about being royalty whom royalty wouldn't even Dain to do like they they work for the the guy who works for for the high priest high priest doesn't come to Bethlehem to pick

sheep and in fact there's going to be a sign that God's doing this and and the sign is going to be uh some unusual Child Care practices say you're going to find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloth in a Manger which is a which is a phrase that we're familiar with because we've read the story if we've read the story but for them these guys who whose whole job was Raising sheep to be slaughtered for the temple this was not something that was normal the things you wrapped up in swaddling cloths were Lambs because if they're blemished they're not able to be sacrificed so wrap a baby the way that you would wrap a lamb that's set for the sacrifice and it's going to be in a feeding trough in a city that's called The House of Bread and if you feel like wow that's a lot of threads coming there's that's a small percentage of the threads that are culminating in this moment in

scripture this this was an unplanned pregnancy as far as Mary's concerned but it was the most planned pregnancy that God ever

had in fact you'll find these unusual Child Care practices as a sign and then an Angelic Army shows up around the herald to say to give praise to God now we have some beautiful songs kind of reflecting this um I don't know that it sounded so beautiful because when we say hosts hosts is a military word so this is like an army chant glory to God in the high like God is marching on death the one who will defeat death has been born this perfect sacrifice has already been

prepared and I can imagine that if you're a soldier that's in the trenches of spiritual warfare day in and day out season after season decade after decade generation after decade when the Savior comes is going to put an end to the war that might be something worth shouting about and the angels don't stay behind the curtain they come forward to say this is

awesome and so the shepherd's like hey we we should probably we should probably go see should probably go see what's going on in Bethlehem right I I think I probably would want to

too know will we have humble ears to hear the most important news about God's work because our King reverses the natural current of creation by his

humility he left the throne in glory and entrusted himself to human

parents Mary and Joseph did not get an instruction manual

either they lost him

once but our King reverses the natural current of creation by his humility he's he entrusts himself to humanity he says I will be with you and you will care for me for a time like I'm holding all of creation together I'm holding your atoms together for you to even function and yet you're going to take care of me while I'm here for this

season so the question on Christmas Eve in my mind is will we as people who want to follow Jesus be defined by Jesus's

humility when people look at us will they see us as being defined by that kind of humility to lay down all rights and privileges to to to enter into the

story and then to entrust the best news to the humblest

ears will we be defined by Jesus's humility

his humility for us and his humility for our

neighbors so if there's any encouragement in Christ any comfort from love any participation in the spirit any affection and sympathy complete my Joy by being of the same mind having the Same Love being in full Accord and of one mind do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility count others more significant than

yourselves Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus who though he was in the form of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped but IED himself by taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men and being found in human form he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death even death on a cross therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name so that the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on Earth and under the Earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God God the

father so if we're going to be grounded this season be grounded with our knees bent to

Jesus I think we have reasons to believe and trust the historical accounts of what's happened so the question is how do we wrestle with God entering the story

and how then will we be defined because our King reverses the natural current of creation by his humility let's pray

together Lord I Thank you for the joys and the triumphs of this season of this story Lord I Thank You for Your Grace and your mercy that you would record it for us Lord I Thank you

for your kindness um to those of us who are more skeptical that you would you would send reasonable and orderly accounts and so Lord as we interact with some of these stories God I pray that you would give us the understanding and the

comprehension Lord you have formed our

mind and you've formed our mind in a way that we can know you and and and know you as a as a savior and as a friend and so Lord I pray that if there are things in our mind that are holding us back from relating to you that Lord you would give us your understanding your

wisdom and Lord we are also tripped up by emotions good or bad and so Lord if there is a feeling that is inhibiting us from coming to you then Lord I pray that you would be our Prince of Peace

that you would be a fire that motivates us out of our

apathy that your kindness would woo us invite us into repentance that me we might walk with you not only in the Glorious moments of a special season but in the everyday Common Place act that most of our days consist

of we need

you so would you meet with us and guide us and direct us we might walk with you not just this day but for the rest of this week and into eternity by your grace we ask

[Music]

amen