The background is a painting of a night sky. It features a dark, textured blue and green sky with a prominent yellow star in the upper center. Below the star, the text is centered. At the bottom, a yellow, crescent-shaped moon is visible above a dark, silhouetted horizon line.

The Insignificant in Christmas

Luke 2:1-20

"Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

INTRODUCTION:

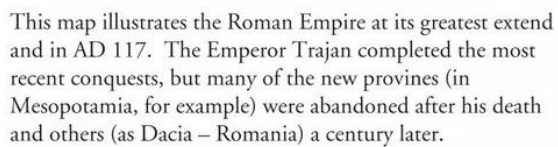
1. Other holidays get a single day; but Christmas gets an entire month—one twelfth of every year.
2. Beneath all the visible “sights and sounds” of Christmas are some simple yet profound truths that can transform your life.
3. The thing that impresses me most about the Christmas story is how simple & unadorned it really is. In fact, what captures me is the “insignificant” element.
4. Observe! In the Christmas story God fills the seeming insignificant with His presence and makes what might have been mundane into profound mystery.



INSIGNIFICANT PLACES

1. The “happening” places in our text: Rome and Syria





INSIGNIFICANT PLACES

1. The “happening” places in our text: Rome and Syria
2. By contrast, the Christmas story sets its focus on little places:
 - A. Like Bethlehem
 - B. Like Nazareth
 - C. Like a manger
 - D. Like fields
4. When God comes near “the little places” become big!



INSIGNIFICANT PEOPLE

1. The “movers and shakers” of the world are mentioned in verses 1 & 2: Caesar Augustus and Governor Quirinius.
2. By contrast, the Christmas story looks to different key players:
 - A. Like a very young, poor couple from Nazareth
 - B. Like shepherds
 - C. Like the innkeeper
4. When God comes near all the so-called “little people” suddenly matter!



INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. The event that would make news was taxes; still does!
2. The Christmas story focuses on the birth of a baby.
This was anything but a normal birth . . .
 - A. Fulfilled prophecy
Sixty major messianic prophecies fulfilled in one person!
 - B. The appearance of that star
 - C. The virgin conception and birth
4. When God comes near all the “little events” become greatly significant!



MAKING IT PERSONAL

You're meant to pay attention to these "insignificant" places, people, and events!

1. It's in the "insignificant" places, people and events of the Christmas story that "the wisdom of God" is displayed.

See 1 Corinthians 1:18-29

2. The suffering of Jesus didn't begin on the cross; it began in his straw bed and continued through to the cross, and all for our redemption.



Jesus didn't show up for a celebration. He wasn't here for a vacation. . . . He came to a world that had been dramatically broken by sin, and his calling was to expose himself to the full range of its brokenness. This is where the details of Christ's birth are important. It means something profoundly important that the cradle of his birth was a feeding trough in a borrowed barn. You are meant to pay attention to the fact that he wasn't in a palace, attended to by servants. It is important to notice that the first smells that entered his infant nostrils weren't oils and perfumes, but animals smells.

PAUL TRIPP

ISAIAH 53:1-3

ISAIAH

"Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

ISAIAH 53:4-6

ISAIAH

"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

The manger of his birth is a clue to what he came to do and what every day of his life would be like. The way God chose to rescue sufferers was by becoming a sufferer himself. Every moment of his suffering was done with us in view. Every dark moment of physical, relational, societal and judicial suffering had a high and holy purpose to it: our salvation. You see, Jesus came to suffer because he came to be our Savior.

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2. The suffering of Jesus didn't begin on the cross; it began in his straw bed and continued through to the cross, and all for our redemption.

3. God can now offer a wonderful gift—the forgiveness of our sins, & the assurance of everlasting life with Him.

Have you received God's Christmas gift?



"You will never truly enjoy Christmas
until you can look up into the Father's face
and tell him you have received
His Christmas gift."

Evangelist & Pastor, John R. Rice



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