The Birth That Rocked the World Luke 2:1-7 Pastor Wes October 4, 2026

1) Many of us have had to make trips which we knew, ahead of time, would be difficult. Share some of those memories with your group.

2) The Roman emperor wanted more tax revenue. His decree resulted in Joseph and Mary being required to travel to Bethlehem to register in the census. The trip was to be more than 70 miles through mountainous terrain, Mary was 8+ months pregnant, and they evidently had no family or friends to stay with in the Bethlehem area. What effect might these potential difficulties have had on their attitude?

3) If Joseph and Mary were familiar with Micah 5:2, how might that prophecy have affected their outlook?

4) a. Verses 1-3 refer to important people in a powerful world empire. They were making and carrying out decisions for major events to occur at particular points in time. How do you see God's sovereignty ruling over and pervading all these events, even down to the humble, unknown lives of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus?

b. Read Galatians 4:4 and Acts 4:23-28. How do these two passages relate to your answers in question 4a?

c. How does reflecting on these truths about God and His rule affect your view of the place and purpose you have In this vast, complex, fallen world?

5) How did the circumstances of Jesus' arrival underscore the humility of the King who brought the infinite, powerful, perfect love of God to a lost and dying world?