



**“The Baby Made the Difference”  
Sunday, December 26, 2010**

**Luke 2:1-14 (NIV)**

**1** *In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

Pastor Jeff shared with us a story written by Brett Hart about Roaring Camp, a small mining town in the mid-nineteenth century, which was changed because of the surprise arrival of a little baby. In light of that story, think about the surprise that the world received when God send Jesus to this earth in the form of a baby.

- **In what way was Jesus' arrival a surprise to the world?**

The town of Roaring Camp changed because the men wanted the best for the baby. What they had wasn't good enough. They began to change the shelter where the baby lived. They began to change the town in which the baby lived. They even began to change their appearances. In essence, they began to change their world because of the arrival of a baby.

- **How has our world changed since the birth of Christ?**
- **How did your life change once you first heard about God sending Jesus to earth to die for your sins and the sins of the world?**

While the story about Roaring Camp is touching, it doesn't compare with the story in Luke 2. God had a purpose in sending the baby Jesus. It wasn't just so we could clean up our lives here on this side of heaven. His ultimate purpose was to offer the gift of eternal life through the sacrifice of His Son on a cross just 33 years later.

Luke 2:11 says that today is born to "you" a Savior. God gave His Son to YOU, so that YOU can eternal life with Him one day in heaven. But, we all have a choice to accept or reject Him. John 3:16 says this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**Do you believe? If you have never accepted Jesus to be your Savior, why not make that choice today? It's as simple as ABC. In your own words, you can follow this guide to ask Jesus to be your Savior today:**

**A**dmit that you are a sinner and in need of God.

**B**elieve that Jesus Christ died and and rose again for your sins.

**C**onfess that Jesus Christ is now Lord of your life.

Whether you are with your family, in a small group or alone by yourself, go tell someone about your decision to follow Jesus! If you are already a Christ-follower, spend some time in prayer thanking God for the gift of His Son today.

**Remember, it was the baby that made the difference. Merry Christmas!**