

Computer Generated Transcript - We are going to be closing out a series that we started a few weeks ago as we've been talking about Christmas and we've been talking about rediscover the wonder about how easy it is to let these amazing stories become commonplace about how when we hear the same stories repeated over and over and over again and when we when we see you know these same things since we're children how we can read something is miraculous or talk about something as miraculous as a virgin giving birth and just talk about of the same way we talk about the flavor of our coffee right and and we start talking about all of these these divine miraculous amazing things and we just it ceases to lose the impact of how amazing some of this stuff is and so we've been just kind of slowing down and looking at some of this stuff as we've gone through the last few weeks and we're winding that down this week it's our last week that we're going to be talking about this and I want to talk we're actually going to be using primarily the same three portions of Scripture that we were in last week to talk about this week Luke chapter one will be there and will be in Matthew chapter one as well so if you want to turn in your Bibles and find those spots and maybe put a finger in there or or market that's that's great but this week we're we're not going to be talking about it the same way we did last week last week we looked at these things and we talked about who the angels were talking to and just how normal these people were right we talk about St Joseph and St Mary or Mother Mary or the Virgin Mary and and we hold them up to this high pedestal thing right we play these people in our in our programs and and we don't think of them as normal people but really when you look at it these are just as ordinary a people as there have ever been right caught in this divine amazing moment in this story there was nothing special. About Mary other than what God did in Mary's life Mary was just a teenage girl there was nothing special about Joseph he was a carpenter and a backwater town that most people didn't even realize was there all right the shepherds were on the lowest part of the social status the social climbing they would they were solo and all that and yet this these angels showed up and we talked about who last week they talked to but today I really want to talk about what it was that they said All right we talked about who and today I really want to focus in on what was said because it's amazing what was said about this baby is not what is said about any other child throughout human history. And it's important for us to take in the message not just to the message was delivered to all right so Luke chapter one we're going to start in verse twenty six Luke chapter one verse twenty six if you've got an electronic version and you like to read the same words as the pastor I'm going to read how the New Living Translation If you've got your own favorite That's fine but but if you want to read the same words that I'm reading out of that's what I'm reading out of the L.T. OK Luke chapter one starting in verse twenty six in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the Angel Gabriel to Nazareth a village in Galilee to a virgin named Mary she was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph a descendant of King David Gabriel appeared to her and said Greetings favored woman the Lord is with you confused in Disturbed Mary try to think with the angel could mean don't be afraid Mary the angel told her for you have found favor with God you will conceive and give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus. Is where I really want you to pay attention verse thirty two he will be very great and will be called the Son of the most high the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David and he will reign over Israel forever His kingdom will never. In. Mary asked the angel How can this happen I'm a virgin the angel replied the Holy Spirit will pump will come upon you the power of the most high will overshadow you so the baby born will be holy. He will be called the Son of God does not just another baby being born OK this is not just another child in history I know that for all of you mothers out there like the day your first child was born was the most special day in the world right like time stopped for you as you locked eyes with that little kid for the very first time I should just say the first one was that way with all of them because you don't have favorites right. But I know that that is a big deal and I know that that's huge but listen I want you to understand is amazing is your first child was and is probably angels didn't show up and say that they were going to be the son or daughter of God. I mean I'm just assuming that that didn't happen to you when your first child was born the son. Of God right now there's a couple of ways you can look at that and a that's a lot of pressure. Right I mean you're raising God's Son don't mess that up that's important

right and we don't want to mess that up but he will be great he will be called the Son of the most high God will give him the throne of his ancestor David listen this is right exactly what people thought that they were looking for in the Messiah I mean you see if you're familiar with the Bible at all you know that when they were looking for a Messiah they were looking for a Savior from their sins they were looking for a savior from Rome all right they were looking for somebody to come and militarily overthrow Rome and sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and that is not what this means but it's everything that they have been waiting for for hundreds of years I want to turn to Luke because I don't want to stop right here or I'm sorry back to Matthew that was Luke Matthew Chapter one Matthew Chapter one we're going to look at verse eighteen. Matthew Chapter one Verse eighteen. This is how Jesus the Messiah was born his mother Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph but before the marriage took place while she was still a virgin she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit Joseph to whom she was engaged was a righteous man who did not want to disgrace her publicly so he decided to break the engagement quietly as he considered this and the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream Joseph son of David the angel said Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife pay attention. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will have a son and you are to name him Jesus for He will save his people from their sins. All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through the prophet look the Virgin will conceive a child. He will give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel which means God with us so now. I'm sure Mary and Joseph talked today I mean I'm sure that they had a conversation now and then and they probably put these things together and if Mary was like the mother of most first time children she was keeping that a journal of everything that that kid did write like our first child everything is documented right the things that she said the time that she was born all the funny little things our youngest child probably will think that she's the adopted one as we grow up talking about adopted children because there is nothing on paper for her we don't remember everything that she said we don't remember all those because you just have more important things to do than write everything down in a book when you have four children right I mean it's just kind of what happens and and so Mary it's her first son right and she's caring and I'm sure they start writing down these things these are the things that the angel said first of all he's the son of God which is pretty great right we're going to write that one down on page one. On of the book OK he's the son of God Number two he's going to rain over Israel he's going to be the king just like David was right that one down don't forget that now we're going to add he's going to save all of God's people from their sins this is a pretty big list right. Glad that that wasn't what was said about me OK I know I'm not God I believe that with every fiber of my body but I'm really glad that I didn't have to sit there is a child and look at my baby book and be like this is what I'm supposed to do these are a lofty things to have said about you. This is a big deal and we talk about it like it's nothing I want to go back to Luke. Go back to Luke. We're going to look at chapter two this time and we're going to start in verse eight Luke Chapter two verse eight Luke Chapter two. Verse eight that night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby guarding their flocks of sheep suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared among them the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them they were terrified but the angel reassure them don't be afraid he said I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people the Savior Yes the Messiah. The Lord. Has been born today Bethlehem the City of David So just in case there was any doubt in Mary and Joseph mind that this child who is going to be the Son of God who is going to sit on the throne of David who is going to save the world from their sins now we have his actual title. Just in case there was any doubt in their minds that this boy that has had all of this stuff said about him was going to be the Messiah the angels on the night that Jesus was born removed all doubt. And they call him the Messiah. Now that word just gets thrown around for us because Jesus has already come and it's great I'm not trying to downplay that that's amazing that the Messiah came and we know due to you know being able to look in the history we can look at all of those things and say oh yeah I get it how did the Jews mess this up right how how do they look at the Old Testament prophecies and not see that Jesus was the Messiah but it's because they expected something totally different. Than expected something completely different than what they got

because they read the same things that we read in without the benefit of hindsight it makes sense that they were looking for a conquering King if you read through Daniel and you read through the first couple of chapters of his prophecy about what the Messiah looks like it absolutely looks like he's going to be a military college conqueror we have the benefit of having Jesus's words written down and we've been able to study them for two thousand years now so we can look at me like oh yeah that's what he meant obviously the Messiah. Has been born. Not how they thought he was going to be born right we talked about this several weeks ago the wise men the magic I they they were looking for Jesus where everybody thought he would be born in a palace where the king lived right that's where they went first they went to the palace where the king was looking for the son of the king right that makes sense nobody was looking for Jesus that night. In the stable. Surrounded by animals. Being ushered into this world by shepherds instead of rich socialites no one was looking for the Messiah. This way. And yet here it is. Now let me ask you parents again so let's say that you have a son have a son or a daughter that's born right and you have this child and there's been prophecies for hundreds of years about what this child was going to do how many of you think you'd go look him up. Like I would my my child my child is that one OK let's go see what it says OK now I believe that Mary and Joseph probably had to go look it up because Mary was and I'm I'm please don't mistake what I'm about to say I'm not trying to say that the way that they viewed women was OK but Mary was a woman born two thousand years ago in the Middle East she was not educated OK She she didn't receive training she didn't get any of those kind of things because they just didn't teach girls those things. It just wasn't a part of what what they did all right so Mary probably wouldn't have known all the prophecies of the Messiah she just probably went to I'd venture a guess that Joseph wouldn't either all right and I'm not going to spend a lot of time here but basically Jewish boys started their schooling and there were three different levels of their schooling the first level they mentioned they memorized the first five books of the Bible which is impressive enough right there and if they were good enough at that they were invited to come back to the second level where they memorized most of the history books and and like the songs in the proverbs the wisdom books and then if they were good enough at that they were invited to become somebody disciple K. come follow me was was the words that were used Kay and they would they would follow this teacher around and then they would memorize the rest of the Old Testament they would have the entire Old Testament memorized but then they would become a fair a C. or a Sadducee or or a scribe or something like that they were brought into this elite group of spiritual leaders in their day all right it was this this this big group of people that they could be brought into but all. We the best of the best were a part of that. Was Joseph a scribe or fair see or sad to see. Know what was he a carpenter which means that somewhere along that point his education stopped and he went back and learned the family trade now I'm not trying to mock him that's a valuable thing that's a good thing but Joseph probably didn't know all of those prophecies either I mean he just probably didn't know all of the prophecies about the messiah but I guarantee you if they're like anybody else they want to start a dig and they want to start a trying to figure out what this means they would have started looking for what it actually means to be the Messiah and most of what they would have heard from other teachers would have been he's going to be the king he's going to be the military conquer he's going to be the one that does this and this and this but I guarantee you they did not hear he's going to die on a cross I would be willing to bet anything that they didn't hear his life will be a life of suffering. I would be willing to bet almost anything I own that they never heard that Jesus was going to be mocked and spit on by the very people he was meant to save you know what's sad about that though is that all of that from Scripture all that stuff was prot was prophesied hundreds of years earlier. Just like all the stuff to talk about how he was going to be king. But isn't it kind of like human nature's to just pick and choose what we really want to hear and we look at all these things and we make all these Listen we're like I like that one that one and that one I'm going to race those other four because they don't make me feel good right ever done that I think you probably have. In one way shape. But let's look at some of these prophecies let's look at what it meant to be the Messiah let's look at what it meant to be the Son of God living on Earth look at what it meant to really take up

David's throne again I'm going to be going through these quick All right so if you're really handy and quick with your bible you're going to be able to follow me but I'm not going to wait for every one of these so if you're not super quick write them down OK I don't want to make it sound like I'm trying to can trick anybody I'm not trying to lose you I'm just warning you right now that I'm going to go pretty quick because we're going to go through about six of these things and I don't want to wait for five minutes in between every one of them OK so here we go ready Isaiah fifty three three says 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 esteem him not that's a prophecy about the Messiah written by Isaiah hundreds of years before Jesus was born John one one through to or one ten through eleven says he was in the world and the world was made through Him The world did not recognize him he came to that which was his own but his own did not receive Him prophecy is fulfilled song forty one nine says even my close friend whom I trusted he who shared my bread has lifted up his heel against me we see in Mark fourteen ten it says Then Judas Iscariot one of the twelve went to the chief priest to be trained Jesus to them Zacharia eleven twelve this is actually one of the most amazing things to me in Scripture Zachariah eleven twelve says I told them if you think it best give me my pay but if not keep it so they paid me thirty pieces of silver Zachariah roughly four hundred fifty years before Jesus breathed his first breath as a human baby prophesied the exact amount of money that Jesus would be be trade for Matthew twenty six fourteen through sixteen says then one of the twelve the one called Judas Iscariot. To the chief priest and ask what are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you so they counted him they say they counted out for him thirty silver coins Isaiah fifty three seven says he was oppressed and afflicted yet he did not open his mouth he was led like a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is silent so he did not open his mouth Mark fifteen five says but Jesus still made no reply and pilot was amazed Isaiah fifty three four through six say Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows yet we considered him stricken by God smitten by him an 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 are 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 all hundreds of years before Jesus was born in a manger all of these things are being prophesied about and I want you to hear today I don't mean to try and be depressing this morning because it's not what I'm trying to do because this is actually a joyous message Jesus came to this earth as the Son of God fully knowing what it meant he knew fully. He wasn't going to be a military conquer he knew fully what his job was going to be and that was to die a horrible death in our stead and then rise again and I I want you to hear that because it's really easy. It's really easy this time of year. Only focus on the really comfortable parts of Scripture. The parts that are nice and make good carols right I challenge you to write a carol out of Isaiah fifty three. And then have people start saying it right that prophesied thing that he's a man of sorrows you know and he will be crushed for our neck what he said doesn't really flow in the Christmas carol type vein right. But Jesus didn't just come to this earth to be born and walk around on on Earth that that wasn't his in game that wasn't his goal that wasn't why he came It's amazing in and of itself that the Son of God as he was called by these angels became Emmanuelle which means God with us all right we're in the New Testament if you're not familiar with church at all that means we're in the New Covenant right which means that God is is in his believers God is all around us we're able to communicate with God directly on our own this happened in the Old Covenant where God with us would be a totally foreign concept God with us means of course he's with us he's in the Temple in Jerusalem and once a year a priest can go in there and pray for all of our sins to be covered that was their experience with God with us and everything changed on this day. God Himself came to this earth. And was with us he became Emmanuel and he didn't do that to eat great deserts. He didn't do that to open presents on Christmas morning. In do that to have the finger food my wife made Chex Mix like a day and a half ago I probably even about my weight in it so far. Because it's just one of those foods I grab and eat to the point where it makes me ill and then I still just keep eating because I'm blocking this with jets chex mix apparently deserts are everywhere how many of experience

already like you went back to mom's house and everywhere you look there's food right I mean there's just there's food everywhere like you can glance around and not see desserts or finger foods or that's how it is when we go back to visit my parents literally there's the food is never gone it's always sitting out ready for you to eat and it's just part of Christmas and I love it. But it's not the point right it's not the point Jesus came to this earth knowing full well what that man that was death because you and I were unable. To do anything to change our station with God. For thousands of years the Jews had been having their sins covered. By the Old Testament sacrifice if you take a look at it and you study it out their sins were covered by these sacrifices then they were displaced as they sent to go out into the wilderness. They were never really gone until Jesus Christ came started something new. He took the old and he fulfilled it I'm not trying to say that none of that matters anymore he took the gold and he fulfilled everything that called for. And that's ultimately. What Christmas is really about. Christmas is a great time of year and I hope you're having a good one I hope that you enjoy what's going on around you today and tomorrow and for this season I hope that it's a joyous time for you I know some of you are going to struggle during this time because of whatever reason but I hope that you find joy because that's really what it's all about but our joy is not found in just the birth of Jesus. Our joy is found in the fact that this little child was the Messiah. Son of God. Who died in our place Bethlehem pointed straight toward a cross and that's really why we're here today and I want to encourage you to smore ning. To not let that slip by unnoticed this year. I just want to encourage you at some point in time during this holiday season and there's a whole bunch of impact right on top of each other right some time in this Thanksgiving Christmas New Years Fiesta you stop and remember the cost of our freedom. The cost of what it means that we can say we're forgiven the cost of what the title Messiah really brought about it's so important and don't let it slip by without paying attention to what it's really about we're going to close our service this morning I know some of you are looking at watches and glancing back and like wait there's still another thirty minutes no there's not but before we go today. I don't want to talk about this stuff and I don't want to leave this place without giving people a chance to respond to Jesus so in just a few moments we're going to give you a chance right if you've if you're in this place and you've never really come to grips with the fact that Jesus died for you you've never asked for his forgiveness which is what the Bible says we need to do to be forgiven by God. I want to give you a chance to do that this morning it's really simple to become a follower of Jesus. Living for him can be complicated and difficult sometimes. But choosing him is a really simple. The Bible says we acknowledge we're center we believe Jesus is who he said he is and we confess our sins to him and we will be made right before God it's really a simple equation and if you've never done that before I want to give you an opportunity to do that this morning maybe you're in this place and you know everything that we just talked about you've heard it a thousand times. But you know if you were honest you'd have to say haven't really been living that way then living for me. The reality of the death of Jesus you know I have I've heard it and I believe it. But really in my day to day life really doesn't guide my decisions and my needs and wants guide might and you just want to apologize again for that and start fresh I want to give you a chance to pray as well right so I'm asking you to buy your heads and close your eyes I'm not going to call anybody up here it's not about it's not about that it's not about walking down some aisle or anything like that it's about a chance for you to connect with Jesus all right I'm not going to various you simply want to know the answers these questions is there anybody in this place this morning you. You have never chosen Jesus before you've never done that you haven't received his forgiveness because you've never asked for it. This morning you're ready to do that is there anybody in here at all that that's you would like you to raise your hand we want to pray with you is there anybody at all I'm not going to wait long we don't like to motivate out of guilt here or shame we want to give people a chance to respond if not we'll move that second question is there anybody here today and you'd say yeah I've I've been forgiven by Jesus in the past but lately it's been all about me. As and been about Jesus and I need some forgiveness for that is there anybody in here that's you I'd like you to raise your hand and we want to pray with you is there anybody at all. All right here's what we're going to do you can go and look at me. We're going to pray. And pray that as

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we go through this Christmas season we make sure that we keep our heart in the right place I don't want this to be a message that that makes you go wild I was really depressing because that's not the point Jesus died for us yes he absolutely did. He knew he was going to die for us he absolutely did but he also prophesied that three days later. After his death he would rise again. And he did. That that's the end of that story. Does dead on a cross is not the end. Jesus is alive again. That's where that part of the story ends and that is something to be joyful excited about. Not to take it for granted but to be excited about the fact that Jesus. Jesus did it if Jesus just died we wouldn't still be talking about him. Because he would have failed to fulfill prophecies he wouldn't have been the Messiah lots of people have predicted their own death. Only one has predicted his death and resurrection and pulled that off. Now it's Jesus. I want to encourage you to walk out of this place knowing that tonight all right we're going to I want to invite you tonight we're going to be back here at five o'clock we're going to be. We're going to have ARC are our Christmas Eve service tonight it's music we're going to read through or tell the story of the Christmas story takes usually I mean our services usually between about forty five minutes and an hour we want to have something that's impactful but at the same time we don't want you here all night we know this is a big night for a lot of people but join us it's just a fun time fun time to sing to hear the stories if you want to come all dressed up that's awesome if you want to come in your jammies that's cool too all right there there isn't some sort of super formal dress code to come I'm probably going to come exactly like this all right my and that's just going to be how it is I don't really want to change my clothes for that I bet my wife will probably change from her light up sweater but. But come just come and hang out don't let dress be a determining factor for that five o'clock tonight we're going to pray and then I'm going to close us out all right Jesus you're good. I think you that you came to this earth Jesus that you were Emmanuelle that you came to this earth you were with us thank you Jesus that you were and are the Messiah prophesied one who came to deliver us from our sins Thank you Jesus. Fulfilling all of that prophesy because we needed. I pray God throughout the season you help us to remember you help us to be excited for those things. Out and to remember how to rock us in amazing. All of that really yes you're good. And we love you amen have a great afternoon Merry Christmas.