



LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

Several years ago, Trey Morgan, Preaching Minister in Childress, TX, was visiting Honduras and was taken, of all places, to the garbage dump. Thousands of people make their homes on that dumpsite. They have constructed shacks out of the things other people have thrown away. And they send their children out early every morning to scavenge for food in other people's garbage so they can have family meals.

Similarly, in the Philippines, people have been born and raised on the garbage dump outside Manila. Some have never traveled even into Manila. It is a heartbreaking thing to see. But some Americans also live on these garbage dumps. They are missionaries who have chosen to leave their own country to communicate the love of Jesus Christ to people who otherwise would never hear it. That is amazing, but not as impressive as our Savior's journey from heaven to earth.

The Son of God knew what he was doing. He knew where he was going. He knew what the sacrifice would be. He journeyed from heaven to earth on a mission to save the human race. Our God is amazing!

Philippians 2:5-8 ESV - 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 emptied 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.

SERMON NOTES

Unchangeable

December 19



Because it's repeated so often, we can believe: _____

- ◆ The _____ of _____ is that God is so approachable— we can _____!

IF Jesus _____ an infant, his _____
Jesus was _____ an infant, his _____

- ◆ We are stuck in an _____ if there was no

◇ B

◇ D

◇ R

- ◆ We can celebrate the _____, but we are _____ by the _____.

DEC. 26, 2021

Ps. 18:30

Next Week:

PERFECT
MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

Mo Luke 1:46-56

Start this week with Mary's song. Rejoice and remember all that the Lord has done. He is faithful, good, and ever-present. This week, celebrate a God who is near and alive.

Tu Luke 2:1-7

Events don't always turn out as we might wish. The time and place Jesus' birth was not as Mary might have imagined. Share the things in your life that might not be ideal. Faithfully, let God have control.

We Luke 2:8-14

As the angels presented this wonderful message to the shepherds, we remember that God's message has been given to us as well. Remember your thoughts and feelings as you first understood the gospel.

Th Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds praised God for all they had seen and heard. What have you experienced that is praiseworthy? Give thanks for both the coming of Jesus and the other things God has blessed you with.

Fr Luke 2:29-32

How does this prophecy and praise regarding Jesus remind you of his great, world-changing purpose? How does that help and encourage you today?

Sa Isaiah 9:2-7

Today, know that God is eternal, powerful, and purposeful. This prophecy gives glory to God's strength and promise. Today we can rejoice because our Savior has been born!

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Luke 2:22-32 & Philippians 2:1-11.
 - ◇ Discuss the difficulties Jesus faced in his life. How does that seem surprising for one who was prophesied to be salvation, light, and glory for all peoples? How do his difficulties lead him to the exalted place above every other name?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus show who is really in control here?
- Share about one time when you have been comforted by faith in the resurrection.
- What do you think is most influential: a person's words or actions?
- How can other people tell by your words or actions that you believe Jesus is alive?
- What is one moment you wish you could go back and do over again? Maybe it was something you said or did. Perhaps it was an opportunity missed.
 - ◇ Spend some time in prayer, asking God to release you from your feelings of guilt or shame.
- Reflect on a seemingly irreversible situation in your life—a time things seemed they couldn't be worse. Identify ways that you now believe God turned things around for you.
- After listening to today's sermon and the discussion of this study, what summary would you give to a friend who is feeling stuck in an irreversible situation?