



Crisis Of Faith

9-2-18

Luke 2:8–14 (ESV)

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is
pleased!”

Holidays mixed up! Not really! We are looking at Luke’s investigative reporting on Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We want to review this very familiar account and focus on God’s method of revelation and make application to our own lives. The last couple of weeks we have seen how God revealed Himself to the world. From reading this proclamation of the angels we would think that everything on the earth was at total peace and without any stress. However that is not the case. This is a truth we need to learn. When we step out and trust God very often things do not work out like we expected them to. Therefore, we have a “Crisis of Faith”!

A very important lesson we will learn this morning is that in our “Crisis of Faith”, God is actually doing a miraculous work. Therefore, we need to learn to stand firm and continue to trust God when things seem to be falling apart all around us.

Lesson #1: Your Crisis of Faith is often a precursor to the miraculous movement of God!

Example:

A Crisis of Faith often comes because something happens in which we have no control over.

Luke 2:1 (ESV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

The government, economic recessions, your boss, family situations, and all other unplanned events may cause our world to turn up side down and suddenly change our circumstances. **In these times, we need to see the world through God's eyes.**

Proverbs 21:1 (ESV)

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

In these times, we take a deep breath knowing everything has been sifted through God's Hands. When we accept God is moving, we adjust our plans to cooperate with God. **Events that upset the norm causing a Crisis of Faith are evidence God is moving.**

Caesar Augustus turned Joseph and Mary's situation up side down. With only the "Word of God" for support this carpenter and his pregnant fiancé had to make an unexpected 80 mile trip by donkey.

Luke 2:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

This trip was not a random irritation; God orchestrated this move, which was necessary for Joseph and Mary to fulfill their destiny. I don't believe that Joseph and Mary fully understood the Scriptures about Christ's birth, **but God knew.** 800 years before in Micah 5:2 God prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem and 1000 years before in 2Sam.7:12-13 God prophesied that Christ would come through the line of David whose home town was Bethlehem. **Therefore God sovereignly moved to bring these events about.** God moved the strongest leader in recorded history, Caesar Augustus, to have everyone in the largest Empire in history, Rome, to be taxed for the sole purpose to have Joseph and Mary travel 80 miles to Bethlehem. **Lesson #2: Understand your own Crisis of Faith, stand strong trust God and like Joseph and Mary you will fulfill your destiny.**

Example :

Seeing this stunning move of God showing nothing is impossible with God, does everything work out perfectly? No! **There comes another Crisis of Faith!**

Luke 2:6–7 (ESV)

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

God moves heaven and earth to have Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem and yet there is no room in the Inn. Baby Jesus is born in a barn! **One Crisis of Faith often leads to another Crisis of Faith! Only those with a heart felt, passionate trust in God can stand in such a challenging Crisis of Faith. At these times, the world and everything around us will say quit, but Faith says persevere:**

Romans 8:28 (ESV)

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

stand strong and fulfill your destiny.

Lesson #3: As we persevere in our Crisis of Faith, completely unknown to us, God is moving heaven and earth all around us. As we persevere in our Crisis of Faith, when things don't work out, the angels are rejoicing because we trust God and never give up.

Example: Look at what is happening while Joseph + Mary are in a stable.

Luke 2:8-10 (ESV)

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Lesson #4: As we persevere and trust God through our Crisis of Faith, we are God's witnesses and God will cause people to observe us and give glory to God for our faithfulness.

Example: God doesn't get Joseph + Mary out of the stable but

Luke 2:15-20 (ESV)

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "**Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.**" ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, **as it had been told them.**

feels others to go + see them.

As we continue in our Obedience, God puts in place everything that is necessary for HIM to complete HIS promises, as only HE fully understands!

Joseph + Mary didn't understand everything but they were obedient to what they did understand.

As we pass through our Crisis of Faith everything ultimately works out as God intended!

Luke 2:21 (ESV)

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

\$ { **Our faithfulness through our Crisis of Faith is necessary for God to fulfill HIS promise. Now God will continue HIS work and HIS purpose!**

Luke 2:52 (ESV)

And **Jesus increased** in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

\$ { **We are fully accepted by God. Therefore when we have a Crisis of Faith, things don't work out like we expected, we know it is only the precursor to the great move of God that is necessary for us to fulfill our destiny and God's purpose.**

2Cor.5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin, so that we might be the righteousness of God.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.