



#### We wish you a merry Christmas and a...

## We wish you a merry Christmas and a... Happy New Year

#### 'Twas the night before Christmas and...

## 'Twas the night before Christmas and... All Through The House

Every time a bell rings an...

## Every time a bell rings an... Angel Gets His Wings

Peace on earth, goodwill...

## Peace on earth, goodwill... To Men

Some assembly...

## Some assembly... Required



## "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men."

#### - Lord Acton



# And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from <u>Caesar Augustus</u> that all the world should be registered.

#### LUKE 2:1



So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

#### LUKE 2:3-7

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

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#### LUKE 2:3-7

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a <u>multitude of the heavenly host</u> praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

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"But you, <u>Bethlehem</u> Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

### MICAH 5:2

The real power was in God's prophecy, not Caesar's decree.



# Power is necessary.



#### God made the earth by His power.

## JEREMIAH 10:12

# Christ is before all things, and in Him <u>all</u> <u>things hold together</u>.

#### COLOSSIANS 1:17

The limited power that we have isn't power we create, but power we borrow from God.



# Power can be dangerous.

















# Power can be dangerous.







# Power can be dangerous.





# Power can be surprising.



## And we know that in all things <u>God works</u> <u>for the good</u> of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

#### **ROMANS 8:28**

## For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are **being saved** it is the **power of God**.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18



## For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are **being saved** it is the **power of God**.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

Now to Him who is able to do **immeasurably more** than all we ask or imagine, according to <u>His power</u> that is at work <u>within us</u>, to him be glory in the church and <u>in Christ</u> Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

#### EPHESIANS 3:20-21

#### Notes:

#### THE \_\_\_\_\_ THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

December 24, 2021 Pastor Augie Iadicicco



If you were to ask someone the night of Jesus' birth who the most powerful person in the world was, they would have reflexively responded, "Caesar Augustus." He is the one, after all, who with a decree can send a peasant couple scrambling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. But true power was lying in a manger. How often do we seek to control our own lives – and even the lives of others – while forgetting that true power is in Christ?

#### And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out form Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. – Luke 2:1

So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. – Luke 2:3-7

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." – Micah 5:2

Christ is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. – Colossians 1:17

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. – 1 Corinthians 1:18

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21

#### My Next Step(s):

- I will admit my weaknesses.
- $\circ$  I will ask for and accept help.
- I recognize my need for God's power; I am insufficient on my own.
- $\circ$  I welcome Jesus, the Word made flesh, as the source of my life and my salvation.
- **Memory Verse:** Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory ... Ephesians 3:20-21a