

THE _____ THAT STOLE CHRISTMAS

December 24, 2021

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Notes:

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 from 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

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My Next Step(s):

- I will admit my weaknesses.
- I will ask for – and accept – help.
- I recognize my need for God's power; I am insufficient on my own.
- 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

(This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)