

The Lord of Breakthroughs - Witness His Majesty
Luke 2:1-7
12-12-21

"The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation." –J. I. Packer

Breakthroughs are when the Lord's presence, power and perspective become real to us.

2 Samuel 5:20 – *"David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, 'The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood.' Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim."*

I. The Lord Is Always Speaking.

Matthew 1:20 – *"...an angel of the Lord appeared...saying, 'Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit.'"*

Psalm 34:18 - *"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

Joseph's Struggles:

- * Doubted.
- * Disoriented.
- * Disappointed.
- * Discouraged.

Luke 2:1-5 – *"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child."*

Psalm 81:13 – *"Oh, that my people would listen to me, that (they) would walk in my ways!"*

II. The Lord's plans are better than our plans.

Luke 2:6-7 – *"And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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."*

Ephesians 3:20 – *"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."*

Spiritual breakthroughs happen when we:

1. Listen daily to the Lord.

Psalm 32:8 – *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."*

2. Pray daily with confidence.

1 John 5:14-15 - *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of Him."*

3. Submit daily to His plan.

Proverbs 3:5-6 – *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

1 Corinthians 2:9 - *"...just as the Scriptures say, 'What God has planned for people who love Him is more than eyes have seen or ears have heard. It has never even entered our minds!'"*

Growing Deeper This Week

1. What is one of your favorite memories from Christmas? Why?
2. How have you learned to use Christmas as an opportunity to serve others or have people into your home?
3. Jesus being born in Bethlehem fulfilled the prophecy of Micah 5:2. Why didn't God just choose a woman who lived in Bethlehem? Why is this trip part of Jesus' story? (See Isaiah 53:3, Luke 9:58, Hebrews 4:15)
4. What are some places of poverty or suffering in our world where people feel "forgotten" by God? What do these places tend to have in common? (Think through this) What are some solutions?
5. Why is it important that God chose to make this world His home and reveal His glory and ministry by starting in a manger? (See Matthew 8:20, Luke 4:17-19)
6. How would you respond to someone who said that all world religions are essentially the same and all lead to God?
7. In what way can you encourage those you influence to look to Christ and not you?
8. Who is Jesus to you?
9. Read out loud Hebrews 1:3 - Jesus is "the brightness of God's glory and the express image of His person." Pray for someone to have a breakthrough with God.