

Christmas

Conings



week 3: joy

assembling my tower of stereo equipment



Ch

ngings



luke 2:1-3

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

Christmas *Longings*



“joy” biblically

- joy: deeper & more enduring than happiness
- we were made for joy received by magnifying God
 - magnify: zoom in & make large in our internal landscape; to select something and make it big
- sin = cut off from God, the source of joy
- therefore we magnify other things looking for joy...ultimately magnifying ourselves

Christmas *Longings*



mis-magnifying attempts at joy

- achievement magnification
- problem magnification
- personal preference magnification
- all of these at their core: self-magnification

Christmas *Longings*



mary's magnifying "magnificat"

**My soul magnifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...**

-luke 1:47

*joy is the fruit of the Spirit in the soul that
magnifies the Lord*

Christmas *Longings*





emperor of
one of largest
and most
sophisticated
kingdoms in
history

caesar v. mary

angelic
visitations;
bearing 'Son
of God' whose
kingdom will
last forever



Christmas *Longings*

mexico's
'garbage-dump people'



Christmas *Longings*



joy in a trash dump?

- magnifying a larger story that makes the trash dump smaller
- souls who do not magnify the trash dump but magnify God who is Lord over the trash dump
- *souls that magnify the Lord, not the situation, find joy.*

Christmas *Longings*



'my soul magnifies the Lord'

- holy detachment from temporary things
- God's joy: the only lasting joy available in the universe
- we will spend our lives magnifying ourselves or God in the search for joy
- joy is the fruit of the Spirit in a soul that magnifies the Lord.

Christmas *Longings*

