

# **St Martins C3 – December 15, 2024**

## ***Luke – The Possibilities of Life in Jesus***

### **Sermon Notes:**

This month at St Martins C3, we have been doing a series called Gospel Beginnings. Four people wrote the story of Jesus in the Bible, and we have been looking at the first time he is mentioned and what that says about his life, ministry and what it means for us today.

We explored Matthew and saw how Jesus is King – one that Herod tried to kill but the Magi worshipped. Mark is like a fast-paced animation movie; there is always something happening. Instead of a baby, Jesus arrives as a fully grown man proclaiming and showing the Kingdom of God.

Now we come to Luke, but when you look at this story, Jesus isn't active at all.

*So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no guest room available for them.*

***Read Luke 2:4-6 (NLT)***

What does a helpless baby wrapped in cloths placed in a manger tell us about Jesus' life, ministry and anything for you and me today?

Newborn babies are cute but they're not much fun. A newborn baby can barely interact with you. Their sight is limited. They don't laugh, they don't enjoy peekaboo, they don't talk to you.

Yet a newborn does teach us something about what Jesus came to do.

As our presents are filled with possibilities, every newborn baby has everything in front of them. A baby born today may be Prime Minister one day.

**A newborn is filled with all the possibilities of life. That brings hope.**

Baby Jesus was filled with all of the possibilities of life, but he also offers us the possibilities of new life. Life through believing in him that is better than anything else the world has to offer. There are times when we are tempted by lesser things because they are right in front of us.

Let us ensure we don't forsake the things of God for lesser things. Because in Jesus there is always more.

When we choose Jesus, we don't know what exactly we're going to get, but we have confidence that what is hidden from us about the future will be good if he is in charge of the world.

Jesus's coming was seen by the shepherds as the hope of the world of peace. In the same way, we can go into the Christmas season with a feeling of hope. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and that means that our world, which is broken, can always get better.

Your world can always get better. Grab onto the life Jesus has for you!

*"You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.*

*<sup>78</sup> Because of God's tender mercy,*

*the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,<sup>[i]</sup>*

*<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,*

*and to guide us to the path of peace."*

**Luke 1:77-79 (NLT)**

This baby would make angels sing. This baby would bring God's tender mercy to the world. This baby would make the light shine on everyone. This baby is ready to release people from darkness.

To release you from darkness.

As we come to reflect on Christmas this morning, let us consider if we have embraced all the possibilities present in this helpless baby who is in fact the King of Kings.

## **Questions to Ponder:**

*What is your favourite part about Christmas?*

*What stood out to you from today's message?*

*What does this message tell you about God?*

*What does this message tell you about humans?*

*What is a present you are hoping for underneath the tree this year?*

*Why do newborn babies fill us with so much hope?*

*What possibilities of life have you fully embraced?*

*How can a person discover new life in Jesus?*

*What aspects of the new life of Jesus do you feel you have fully embraced? What are you yet to embrace?*

*How can you live each day in humble gratitude for the new life that Jesus has given you?*

*If you had a prayer that Jesus could answer what would it be?*