

## “Very Important Person”

**Who are some “very important people”?**

**What makes them important?**

**“Very important people” tend to connect with other**

**“Very important people” while ignoring the rest of us...**

**But God sees things differently...**

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### **Caesar August: VIP\*\***

- lived in a palace 8,600 m<sup>2</sup> (92,500 ft<sup>2</sup>)
- ruled over ~60 million people
- ruled an army of 250,000 men
- ruled over 3,300,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- lived to 75 years old
- with a giant procession over 220 km in his honor at his death
- with a great number of statues and coins that show his appearance



### **Jesus Christ: Obscurity**

- first bed was an animal feeding trough among an oppressed people
- his birth was known only to a few lowly shepherds
- had no home during his ministry
- died at 33 years old as a criminal
- with perhaps 120 followers who hid in locked rooms upon his death
- with no statues or coins or ...
- **And yet...**

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## Jesus of Nazareth...

- is the visible expression of the invisible God
- has all the fullness of God dwelling in Him
- has the highest honor in all creation
- is creator and sustainer of all things

So it is right that a great crowd of the heavenly armies celebrated when He was born!

Yet, the audience was a bit limited...

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### *Luke 1:9-14* **lowly, dirty, despised shepherds**

An angel of the Lord appeared to **them**, and **the glory of the Lord shone around them**, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

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This amazing display was sent to lowly, dirty, despised shepherds

Why was this amazing glory not sent to Jerusalem, to kings like Caesar Augustus, to the rich and honored, to the temple, to the Pharisees and religious leaders, to greater nations, to the most intelligent or the most noble or the most influential people?

Why isn't the glory of God as obvious as the sun in the sky??

“But God chose the **foolish** things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the **weak** things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the **lowly** things of this world and the **despised** things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, **so that no one may boast before him.**”

*1 Corinthians 1:27-29*

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### The Big Idea

**The unimaginable greatness of God  
was hidden in obscurity  
so that His glory is revealed  
to the humble who have faith**

- **The Son of God took on flesh as the lowest of people to raise the lowest of people to the glory of His Kingdom**
- **The Spirit of the Most High will come to the lowest who turn to Him in humble faith**
- **This is the sign of God's presence: glory in a manger**

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## Application

### Rejoice!

- The Son of God became a human being so He could live, die, and come to life again to bring salvation...
  - Through **lowly and oppressed people**
  - For the **lowly and needy**
- The Spirit of God **lives within all who trust** in the Son of God
  - Those **who know their need** for a Savior

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## Application

### Rejoice!

### Trust

- When Jesus was born...
  - **Seemingly nothing changed**
  - Yet the Kingdom of God had broken into humanity, and one day Jesus will return to bring its completion
- When we trust in Jesus as Savior...      **When we pray...**
  - **Seemingly nothing changes**                      **When we obey in faith...**
  - Yet the Spirit of God enters our lives and one day will make us share in the glory of God!

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### **The Big Idea**

**The unimaginable greatness of God  
was hidden in obscurity  
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to the humble who have faith**

- **Do you need a Savior?**
- **Do you need a Sustainer?**
- **Turn to Jesus, Savior, Messiah, and Lord in humble trust**
- **On the surface, things may not change**
- **Yet the Mighty Hand of God will begin His unstoppable work!**