

“DECREASING TO YOUR DESTINY”

Pastor Mark Johnson

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INTRO: The Christmas story involves great humility. To fulfill our God-given destiny requires humility.

I. HUMBLE BEGINNINGS.

- A. Mary was pregnant before she was married (Matt. 1:18; Lk. 1:48).
- B. They had to be on the move (Lk. 2:1-7; Matt. 2:13-15, 19-23).
 - 1. They had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem while Mary was pregnant (Lk. 2:1-5).
 - 2. They had to give birth to Jesus away from home (Lk. 2:6-7).
 - a. They had to use a manger for a crib (Lk. 2:6-7).
 - b. What kind of way was this for a king to be born?
 - c. No public celebration, no crowds, no fanfare.
 - 3. After Jesus' birth, they had to flee for Jesus' life to a foreign land (Matt. 2:13).
 - 4. They ended up in Nazareth, which was not a very respected town (Jn. 1:46)
- C. They evidently didn't have much money (Lk. 2:22-24; Lev. 12).
- D. It took great humility for the shepherds (Lk. 2:8-20), Simeon (Lk. 2:25-35), Anna (Lk. 2:36-38) and the wise men (Matt. 2:1-2) to recognize who Jesus was at His birth and worship Him accordingly.

II. HUMILITY – THE PATH TO DESTINY

- A. The example of Jesus (Phil. 2:5-11).
- B. The teaching of Jesus (Matt. 18:4; 23:12).
- C. 1Peter 5:5-6.

III. EVIDENCES OF PRIDE

- 1. You try to make yourself look better than someone else.
 - A. This is often done by talking a lot about your abilities and accomplishments.
- 2. You talk more about yourself than you listen to others talk about themselves (James 1:19).
- 3. Interrupting.
- 4. Name dropping.
- 5. Equaling or One-upping.
- 6. An unwillingness to serve in menial tasks.
 - A. Pride will typically only accept well-respected and visible tasks and then will draw attention to the task/s accomplished.

CONCLUSION: Let's decrease to our destiny. Let's humble ourselves before the Lord and each other. To nurture humility, focus implementing the opposite of these evidences of pride.