





WELCOME
TO
CAC

Pastor and Sis. McKinney, along with the CAC Church Family, would like to thank you for choosing to worship the Lord with us today.

We hope you find your visit informative and inspirational and one that will keep you coming back. If you have any questions feel free to contact our ushers and staff. Connect with CAC today and let CAC be your home church.

We hope to see you in future services!

Tax-Time In Bethlehem

***Luke 2:1-7** "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ([And] this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house*

and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Tax-time in Bethlehem! This was a time when the city was crowded with folks fulfilling their obligation of paying taxes. Yes, even back then, taxes were something to be reckoned with.

Mary and Joseph made their journey of approximately 90-100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. This was a task within itself, due to Mary being great with child. But being the law-abiding citizens that they were, they set out on their journey. When they got to Bethlehem, they found the city crowded and *no vacancy* signs everywhere, and to top it all off, Mary was about to give birth!

Instead of the finest Hotel Suite with a comfortable bed, or a renowned Hospital with a skilled staff, they found themselves in a lowly stable with only a manger in which to lay their newborn babe. Mangers were feeding troughs for animals, and now

this feeding trough was holding the Bread of Life that would feed mankind.

Sometimes we fail to see the good in hardships. When things get difficult, maybe the Lord is getting ready to give us something greater. If you lose your job, maybe the Lord has a better one waiting for you. If you face obstacles, maybe the Lord is sparing you from hurt and pain; perhaps even slowing you down. For you see, sometimes, He steers us away from what we think is best for us, to lead us into what is best for us.

The Lord used taxes to set into motion the fulfillment of His Word. So as you embark upon fulfilling your obligation at tax-time, just remember why it was that Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. Who knows what miracle that God has in store for you, just by simply paying your taxes!

