



December 18, 2016
Celebration · 9:00 am
Elevation · 11:00 am
Pastor Eric Wakeling

Jesus Over Caesar Luke 2

“Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.” Luke 2:1

We must choose the true gospel. Gospel of Caesar vs the Gospel of Jesus

- Luke 2:1-14
- **The backdrop of Christ’s birth:**
 - Octavian, adopted son of Julius Caesar, defeated Mark Antony in the battle of Actium in 31 BC and restored peace to the Roman Empire and then became Caesar Augustus (the illustrious one).
 - Caesar Augustus staged elaborate public games in honor of his adopted father. During these games a comet appeared which was seen as a sign of Julius Caesar’s divinity.
 - Caesar Augustus proclaimed his own deity and had coins inscribed calling himself “son of the deified one.”
 - He was known as the “bringer of peace,” “Savior” and “Lord.” His birth was called “good news” and was celebrated by a twelve-day holiday called “advent.” Other titles included “Cosmic Savior,” “Atonement for Rome’s Past Sins,” and “Inaugurator of the Golden Age of Peace and Security.”
 - These similarities to Christ forced the Romans to choose between Caesar and Jesus. There could be no confusion over the true revolution that following Jesus involved.
- Luke 1:26-38

We look to Jesus for our hope. Earthly expectation vs Eternal significance

- We look to earthly kings rather than placing our hope in Jesus.
- We place our expectations on Jesus rather than submitting to His will. We tend to see Jesus through our lens rather than through the lens of the Scriptures.

We need to respond like Christ. Aggressive action vs Humble trust.

- We can oppose earthly kings in the way the zealots did rather than the way of Jesus.
- We can have a wrong understanding of who Jesus is just as much as them.

□ Reflection + Discussion Questions

1. What's your favorite part about Christmas? What's your least favorite part about Christmas? What helps you keep your focus on Christ during this season?
2. What stood out to you in this message about the gospel of Caesar and the Gospel of Jesus? What did you learn that didn't know before? What impacted you about it?
3. Reflect on your own tendency to look to earthly leaders (politicians, influencers, supervisors, even family) for hope and support without looking to Jesus. How much of an issue is this in your life and what steps can you take to grow in this area?

□ Next Steps

1. **Respond to the true gospel of Jesus.** Come pray with someone at the Prayer Points or anyone you know to receive the gift of grace and forgiveness offered by Jesus Christ. Learn more about who Jesus is at calvarylife.org/jesus
2. **Attend 'The Longest Night' this Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel.** Come for a peaceful and reflective service for those in the midst of any pain, grief or loss on this, the longest night of the year, as we will look to the light of Christ together. calvarylife.org/longestnight
3. **Come celebrate the birth of Jesus and discover the life-giving way of His Kingdom.**
 - Saturday, December 24 · 5:00 pm
 - Sunday, December 25 · 10:00 am

Please note, both services are in the Worship Center and will be the same Candlelight Service. Families with very young children are welcome to enjoy the service together as a family with a live video overflow feed in the Nursery.

Learn more about Christmas at Calvary at calvarylife.org/christmas

4. **Pray through where we place our hope and how we respond:** *"Lord, do I look to you for significance or do I have an expectation of you that's different than what you offer? Lord, do I respond in humility or aggression when something doesn't go my way? Heal my heart, change my heart, and mold me to be more like You Lord. Amen."*