



Beauty

December 5th-6th, 2018

SERIES: Unexpected

SPEAKER: John Williamson (Timberlake), Josh Allen (Altavista), Theo Griffin (Downtown) STUDY GUIDE: Christopher Shafer

Read: Luke 2:1-7

- **Luke begins the Christmas story with two kings, not the King!**
- **Herod was a tyrant...used by God!**
- **Caesar was a savior...used by God to accomplish His plan**
- **The Birth...**
 - Actually "the word *katalyma*, usually translated "inn" (v. 7), may mean a room.

Bottom Line: Do you see what I see?

For those living a Jesus-centered life

1. We need to see that sometimes the things that seem repulsive are the most beautiful things we might ever see.
2. We need to see that things are not always as they appear.
3. We need to see the Unexpected Gift of beauty.

Discussion Questions:

1. In considering the season of advent and the birth of Jesus, begin this week's group discusses the following C.S. Lewis quotes as an ice breaker and discussion starter:

- a "Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."
- b "The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God"
- c "He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less"

2. The end of 1 Corinthians 1 explains how God uses what is weak and foolish in the world's eyes to pity the strong and wise. Similarly, the repulsiveness of the Christmas story is beautiful to those who know Jesus. What other aspects of the Christian life (repentance, submission, etc.) is unattractive in the worlds' eyes but beautiful and good new to us?
3. Has your Christian walk been beautiful to those around you whom do not know the definition of true beauty; God? If you were the example of His beauty, what would they have seen this week? And how can you further obey Him in reflecting His beauty and glory?
4. Seeing as things are not always as they appear, who do you need to be patiently loving towards, seeing as the situation may not be what you think? In other words, who or what are you quick to judge that the Spirit is convicting you about?

5. Break into groups of 2-3 people and close the evening here:

- a Explain what makes Christ seem beautiful to you, both from what Scripture says and what your experiences with Christ have proven to you.
- b Consider how God uses both good and bad governments and rulers in the Christmas story to enable His will to occur. Now, take some time to pray for the government who rules over you in this moment. Pray that God would continue to accomplish His global redemptive plan to all the nations through the specific government He has over you right now.
- c Pray that Jesus would become beautiful to your lost coworkers and family members by name! Share these names with the group members and ask for their eyes to be unveiled to the beauty of Christ.

OPTIONAL Throughout the Week: Ask what this Psalm says about God and what it says about us?

Monday: Psalm 31 **Tuesday:** Psalm 32 **Wednesday:** Psalm 33 **Thursday:** Psalm 34 **Friday:** Psalm 35

