



# Christmas on a Budget

The Wealth of Those Who Don't Seem to Have Much

LUKE 2:1-12

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • December 15 & 16, 2012 • Gospel of Luke, week 7 • Msg. # 12-39

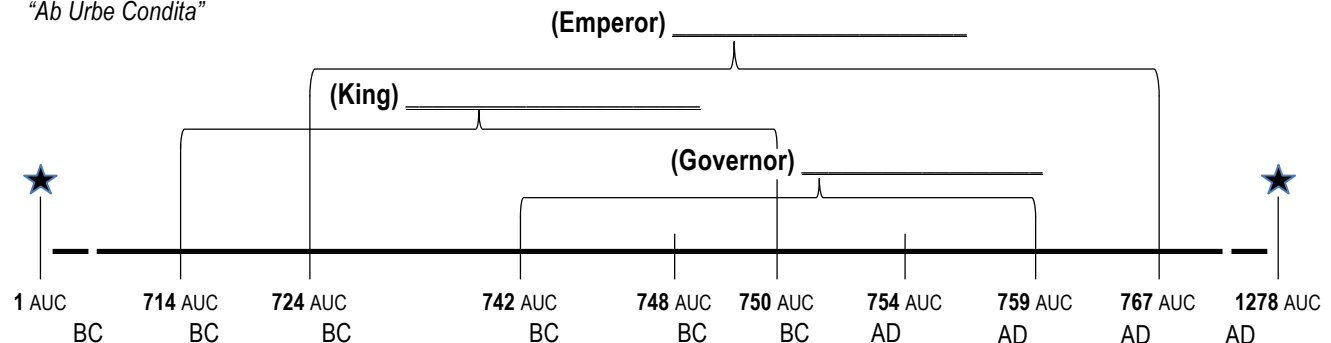
1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (ESV)

1. When You're Not \_\_\_\_\_,  
 ...Trust in \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.1-5)

2. When You Can't \_\_\_\_\_,  
 ...Remember \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.6-7)

3. When You Don't Have \_\_\_\_\_,  
 ...Be Sure You're \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.8-12)

"Ab Urbe Condita"



# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Timothy 6:6-8**. What are some of the things that make contentment so difficult in our modern culture? How is the problem exacerbated during the Christmas season?
2. Read **1 Timothy 6:9-10**. Describe some of the specific temptations that are associated with the craving to have more and more of the world's commodities?
3. Read **Luke 12:22-28**. How does this perspective help when you are not able to buy what you desire, get what you want, or go where you'd like?
4. Read **Luke 12:29-34**. What are some practical ways to shift more of your priorities from improving your temporal experience here on earth to "seeking his kingdom" as Jesus instructs us in this passage?
5. Read **Ephesians 1:3**. Considering the context of this statement (and any other biblical passages) list some of the "spiritual blessings" we now possess as God's kids, which are not contingent on the comforts and conveniences that money can buy?

## **The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:**

Go to [ESV.org](http://ESV.org) (Reading Plans: Though the Bible) for schedule prompts.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
*Amos 7-9 & Rev.7*  
**December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
*Obadiah & Rev.8*  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
*Jon. 1-4 & Rev.9*  
**December 19<sup>th</sup>**  
*Mic. 1-3 & Rev.10*  
**December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
*Mic. 4-5 & Rev.11*  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
*Mic. 6-7 & Rev.12*  
**December 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Nah. 1-3 & Rev.13*  
**December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Hab. 1-3 & Rev.14*

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website ([FocalPointMinistries.org](http://FocalPointMinistries.org)).

Msg. # 09-24 – **Faith, Stress & Money: Rethinking Biblical Faith in a Down Economy**  
Msg. # 08-05 – **Money Madness: Finding Peace in the Storm of Materialism**  
Msg. # 05-54 – **God Called It: Yahweh's Sovereign Plan Regarding "The Christ"**  
Msg. # 03-22 – **Where You're Planted: When the Grass Looks Greener**  
Msg. # 08-60 – **Studying God: The Decrees & Sovereignty of God**

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Alcorn, Randy. **Money, Possessions, and Eternity**. Tyndale House, 2003.  
Blomberg, Craig L. **Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions**. InterVarsity Press, 1999.  
Bruce, F. F. **The Defense of the Gospel in the New Testament, revised edition**. Eerdmans, 1977.  
Burroughs, Jeremiah. **The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1981.  
Duncan, David. **Calendar: Humanity's Epic Struggle to Determine a True & Accurate Year**. Avon Books, 1998.  
Getz, Gene. **Real Prosperity: Biblical Principles of Material Possessions**. Moody Press, 1990.  
Guinness, Os. **God in the Dark: The Assurance of Faith Beyond a Shadow of Doubt**. Crossway Books, 1996.  
Henry, Matthew. **The Pleasantness of a Religious Life: A Puritan's View of the Good Life**. Christian Focus, 1998.  
Hoehner, Harold. **Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ**. Zondervan, 1978.  
Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. **A Life of Joy and Peace: An Exposition of Philippians**. Baker Books, 1995.  
MacArthur, John. **Anxious for Nothing: God Cares for the Cares of Your Soul**. Victor Books, 2006.  
Pink, A. W. **The Sovereignty of God**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 2009.  
Schreiner, Thomas & Bruce Ware. **Still Sovereign: Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge & Grace**. Baker, 2000.  
Watson, Thomas. **The Art of Divine Contentment**. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1653 (reprint, 1998).  
Wilson, Doug. **Joy at the End of the Tether: The Inscrutable Wisdom of Ecclesiastes**. Canon Press, 1999.