



The **holiday** that our culture celebrates is not the **Holy day** the Bible talks about.

- Our culture can cause us to miss **Christ** in **Christmas**.

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire... All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

#### Lessons from Rome:

- Rome believed in looking **inward** rather than **upward**.

- They saw themselves as **elite**.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17 (NIV)

11 Entering the house where the baby and Mary, his mother, were, they threw themselves down before him, worshipping... Matthew 2:11 (TLB)

- They saw Roman **authority** as their **provider**.

22 Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other. Isaiah 45:22 (NLT)

- It's in looking **upward** that we experience **Christmas**.

- Rome believed it had **everything** it **needed**.

- Rome had everything they **wanted** but they had no idea what they **needed**.

9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified,  
 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.  
 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! Luke 2:9-11 (NLT)

- Rome believed that **power** was stronger than **love**.

7 Some nations boast of armies and of weaponry, but our boast is in the Lord our God. Psalm 20:7 (TLB)

- We'll miss Christmas if we're not looking for **love**.

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son. . ." John 3:16 (ESV)

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)

24 He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. 1 Peter 2:24 (NLT)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

**Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Do you feel like you are ready for Christmas? Have you ever felt like Christmas has come and gone, and somehow you missed it?
- What are some of the reasons that you believe contribute to people missing the meaning of Christmas?
- How does our culture contribute to us missing the Christ in Christmas?
- Do you think that Americans see themselves as better than others? Do you think that pride prevents us from connecting with Christ? What are some ways that we look to our government to provide for us rather than God?
- Do you think that like Rome we have everything we want, but no idea of what we need?
- How can we constantly be in touch with our need for a savior?
- Rome believed that power would change people. Do you believe that love is greater than power? Why? How does love change people?
- What are some things you are going to do this year to make sure you don't miss the meaning of Christmas?

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OTHER NOTES:

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**The Quest Church**

Doing life together

Today's Talk..



**UNAWARE IN ROME**

Get connected! Try out a Connection Group.



**CONNECTION GROUPS**

Information available in the courtyard.