

# LUKE 06 - Hearing God in these days!

God used Caesar Augustus to call for a census causing Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem, showing how God can use an unsaved political leader to cause a series of events to fulfil a 700 year old prophecy. This meant that Joseph, and a 9-month pregnant Mary in particular, had to travel 145 kms by foot on the back of a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We can only imagine the heat, sweat and tears involved in making this trip.

**Luke 2:8-18** - *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."*

*<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

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It's easy to read these stories and say, if I had an angel speak to me, then I could have the faith of Mary or the shepherds, but we are called to live in the here and now. So the question is:

In the days of Cyril Ramaphosa, how do you hear God?

1. **Through fallen messengers with an un-fallen message.**

We want the miraculous but, by God's design we need to hear through flawed vessels like Rory, Steven and Andy.

2. **Through the hardships of life.**

What are the goads (Acts 26:14) that God is using to get your attention?

3. **Through the truth of God's word.**

We spend years studying for our academic qualifications, but struggle to find time to study God's word.

On top of all of this God has given us **a sign** of his heart toward the world. This sign is the picture of our Saviour born as a baby and lying in a manger. Displaying the way of humility in stark contrast to the way of power embodied in Caesar Augustus.

We need to learn to get the shepherd out of the way and listen to fallen messengers with an un-fallen message, through the hardships of life and the truth of God's word, so we can hear God speaking to us, and showing us the way of humility as opposed to the way of power.

## **Questions**

1. Is there space for Jesus in your life?
2. When last did you hurry for Jesus?
3. What are the circumstances that God is using to get your attention?
4. Is our lifestyle reflecting the ways of Caesar or the way of Jesus? Power or Humility?