

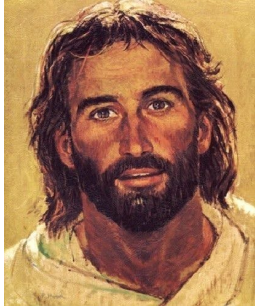
Scandalous Christmas

The Fugitive Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken. And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:1-7

I like the Christmas Jesus best, and I'm sayin' grace. When you say grace, you can say it to Grownup Jesus or Teenage Jesus or Bearded Jesus or whoever you want.
Ricky Bobby





Tom Cruise Running

<https://youtu.be/srrXNcRHwjl?si=SlCtcz1H1eAiLvia>

Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2:4-5





(After the Magi) had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Matthew 2:13-16

"His story begins with genocide, the massacre of the innocents, Herod's attempt to murder Jesus by ordering the systematic execution of all young boys around Bethlehem. You must picture ethnic cleansing as the twentieth century say in Bosnia, Rwanda, Burma. Atrocity, the ground soaked with the blood of children who five minutes earlier were laughing and playing."

John Eldredge

Another time (Jesus) went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 2 Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they

watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." Mark 3:1-3

*4 Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. 5 He looked around at them in anger **The word anger here is violent emotion.** and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. Mark 3:4-6*

Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. John 7:1

The Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. 15 Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Matthew 12:14-15

Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp 40 Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. John 10:39-40

Three habits to prioritize when you are on the run

- 1) Jesus prioritized His friends
- 2) Jesus prioritized His purpose
- 3) Jesus prioritized His solitude

On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much 7 that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. 8 Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." 9 The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted 10 and had John beheaded in the prison. 11 His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried

it to her mother. 12 John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus..

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Matthew 14:6-13

Are you on the run? Is your to do list out of control? What step do you need to take to include Jesus in your running?