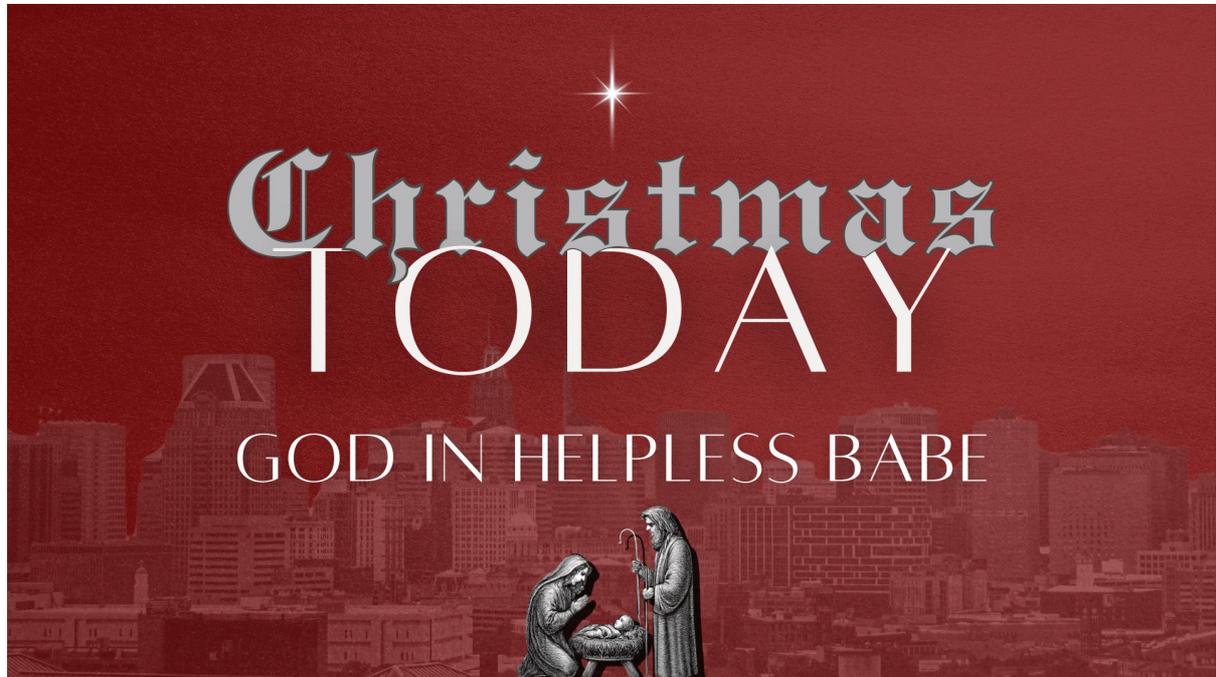


# Sermon Notes (11.30)

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November 30, 2025



## **Christmas Today: God in Helpless Babe**

**Pastor John Lane**

**November 30, 2025**

### **Luke 2**

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

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 guest room

available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 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.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

*Women since ancient times and in many cultures have wrapped their newborn infants. The umbilical cord is cut and tied, then the baby is washed with water and rubbed with finely pulverized salt. Then he is laid on a cloth, legs straight and arms at his sides. A long strip of cloth, 4 or 5 inches wide by 5 or 6 yards long, is wrapped in overlapping bands from head to toe. Room is left for the face, of course, and at the business end of things. The snug cloths prevent startling, help limbs to grow straight, and are said to aid in sleeping.*

—Sarah Chrystmer

Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the **strips of linen** lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

## **The door to the kingdom is through the recognition of our helpless and vulnerable need for a savior**

### **Celebrate Recovery Principles**

Principle one: **Realize I'm not God. Admit I'm powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.**

Principle two: **Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.**

*To be powerless means to be absolutely helpless... . This, oddly enough, is the best disposition for the beginning of a spiritual journey. Why is that? Because the deeper one's awareness of one's powerlessness and the more desperate, the more willing one is to reach out for help... The real spiritual journey depends on acknowledging the unmanageability of our lives. The love of God...is what heals us. Nobody becomes a full human being without love. It brings to life people who are most damaged.*

—Thomas Keating

*What if we shared the Romans Road in a new order? Instead of starting off with our sin, what if we started off explaining the message of Jesus as the solution to our powerlessness?*

*We could share something like this:*

*Do you ever feel like there are things in your life that are just too big for you? I mean, as you live your life, do you ever find yourself looking square into the face of something that seems so overwhelming that you feel as though you lack the courage or the strength to confront it. It could be any number of things, but the bottom line is that for many, if not most of us, there are times in our lives when we face things that are very intimidating...*

*even frightening.*

*Today I want to suggest to you that is the best place to be to find peace, love, and even faith.*

*This is the exact best place to be to move towards who we want to be and away from the parts of us we don't want to be anymore.*

*And he suggests we begin with Romans 5:6, not Romans 3:23*

— Eric Bryant

**Romans 5:6 says this:**

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

**The pathway to receiving God's love is an admission of our need for it!**

Brennan Manning in Abba's Child:

*Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion.*

**Until we understand how deeply beloved we are by God, we will crave the praise of man, becoming imposters, more concerned about our appearance than our heart.**