

His Name is Nazarene

“His Name is Nazarene”

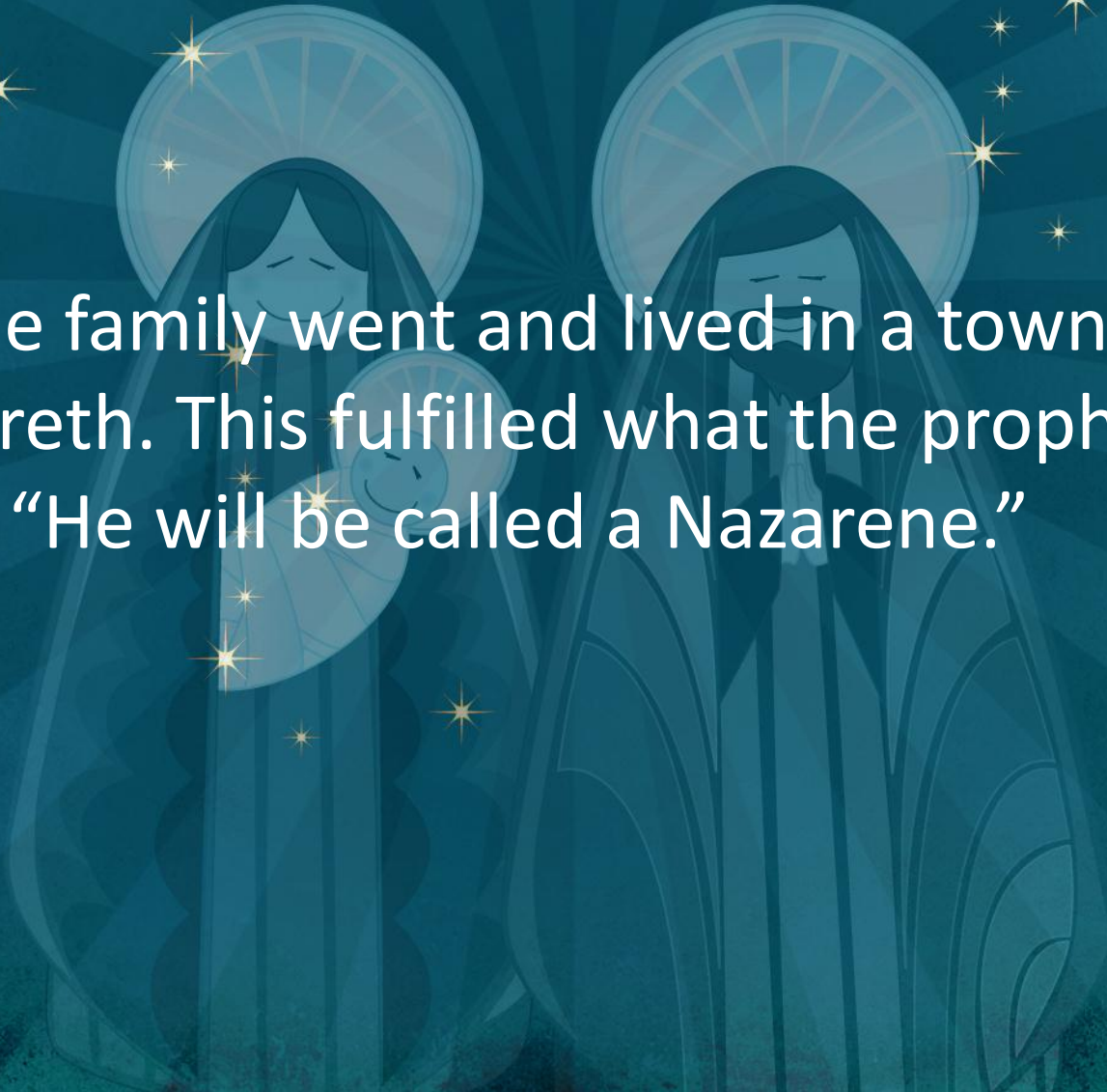
Matthew 2:23; Selected  
Scriptures

Sermon Series: What's in a  
Name?



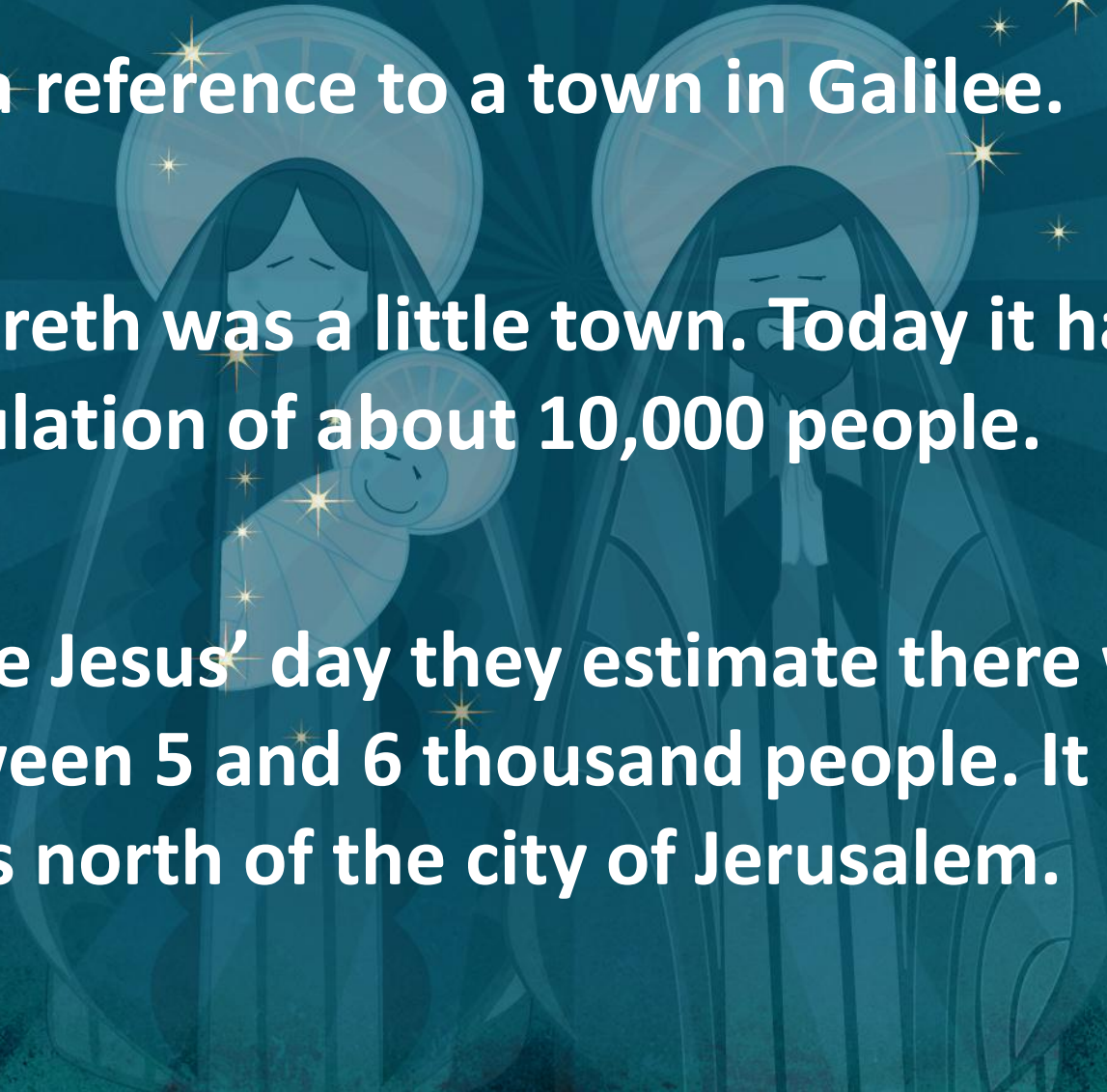
# Matthew 2:23 (NLT)

- So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”



# I. A Place

- It is a reference to a town in Galilee.
- Nazareth was a little town. Today it has a population of about 10,000 people.
- In the Jesus' day they estimate there were between 5 and 6 thousand people. It was 55 miles north of the city of Jerusalem.



# A Place (cont')

- To say that somebody was from Nazareth was not giving him a compliment at all.
- It was a name that referred to contempt. It was a name of ridicule and rejection. Today we would use terms like country bumpkin or a hick .

## A Place (cont'd)

- Nathaniel said in John 1:46 "*Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?*"
- **We can miss Jesus/Christmas if we *overlook the common/ordinary.***
- People made fun of Nazareth, especially folks in Jerusalem.

## A Place (cont'd)

- We can miss Jesus/Christmas if we expect God to work *according to our plans*.
- God has a way of taking the little and the ordinary and the despised and the outcast.
- This just reminds us that Jesus Christ was rejected when He came into this world. When Jesus was born the Bible says there was *“no room for Him in the inn.”*

# A Place (cont'd)

- They missed Jesus/Christmas because they were *preoccupied*.
- John 1:11 (NKJV), “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”

## II. A Promise

- *"This fulfilled what the prophets had said..."*
- You can search your Old Testament over and you will not find this statement, *"He will be called a Nazarene."*
- In fact, Nazareth is not even mentioned in the Old Testament. It's mentioned 30 times in the New Testament. What's going on? Is there a mistake in the Scripture?

# A Promise (cont'd)

- **Matthew 2:5-6 (NLT):**
- ***“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:***
- ***6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”***
- The reference is to Micah 5:2. He predicted He would be born in Bethlehem and it came to pass.

# A Promise (cont'd)

- **Matthew 2:14-15 (NLT),** *“That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother,<sup>15</sup> and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: ‘I called my Son out of Egypt.’”*
- The reference there is to the prophet Hosea 1:11.

# A Promise (cont'd)

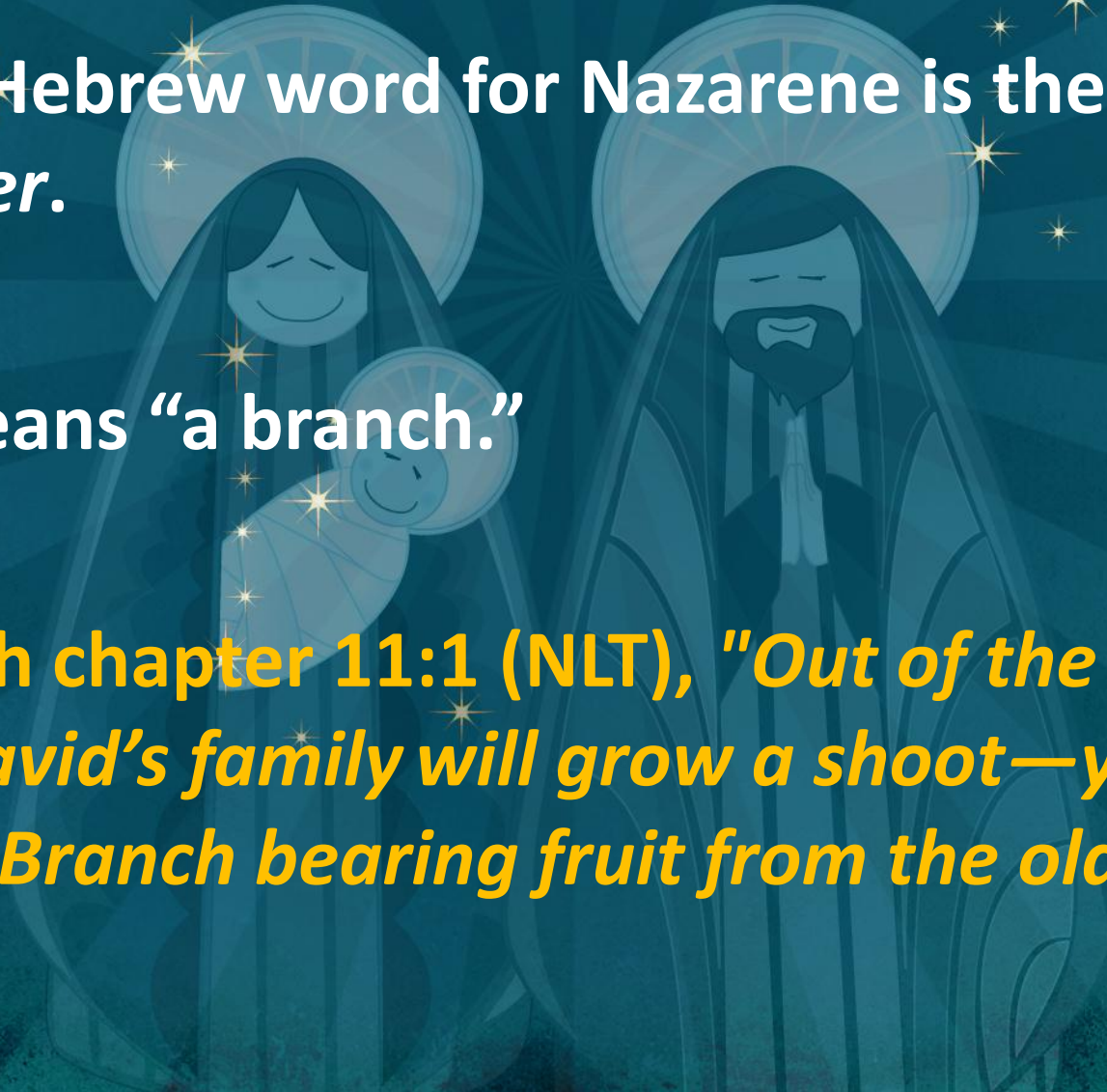
- **Matthew 2:17 (NLT) says:**
- ***“Herod’s brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:***
- ***18 ‘A cry was heard in Ramah— weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead.’”***
- **This fulfills the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:15.**

# A Promise (cont'd)

- **Matthew 2:23.** *"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets (plural)."*
- **So you have what is called a composite. This verse of Scripture reaches back into the Old Testament and takes a composite of predictions about the coming of Jesus Christ into the world and those predictions all put together .**

# A Promise (cont'd)

- The Hebrew word for Nazarene is the word, *netzer*.
- It means “a branch.”
- **Isaiah chapter 11:1 (NLT), “Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot—yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.”**



# Isaiah 53:1-2 (NLT)

- *“Who has believed our message?  
To whom has the LORD revealed his  
powerful arm?”*
- *<sup>2</sup> My servant grew up in the LORD’s presence  
like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry  
ground. There was nothing beautiful or  
majestic about his appearance, nothing to  
attract us to him.*

# Isaiah 53:3 (NLT)

- ***<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.”***

# A Promise (cont'd)

- They missed Jesus/Christmas because of *indifferent pride.*
- Isaiah 53:2 *"My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground."*
- The reference here is to the house of King David.

# A Promise (cont'd)

- **Luke 4:16 (NLT),** *“When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.”*

# A Promise (cont'd)

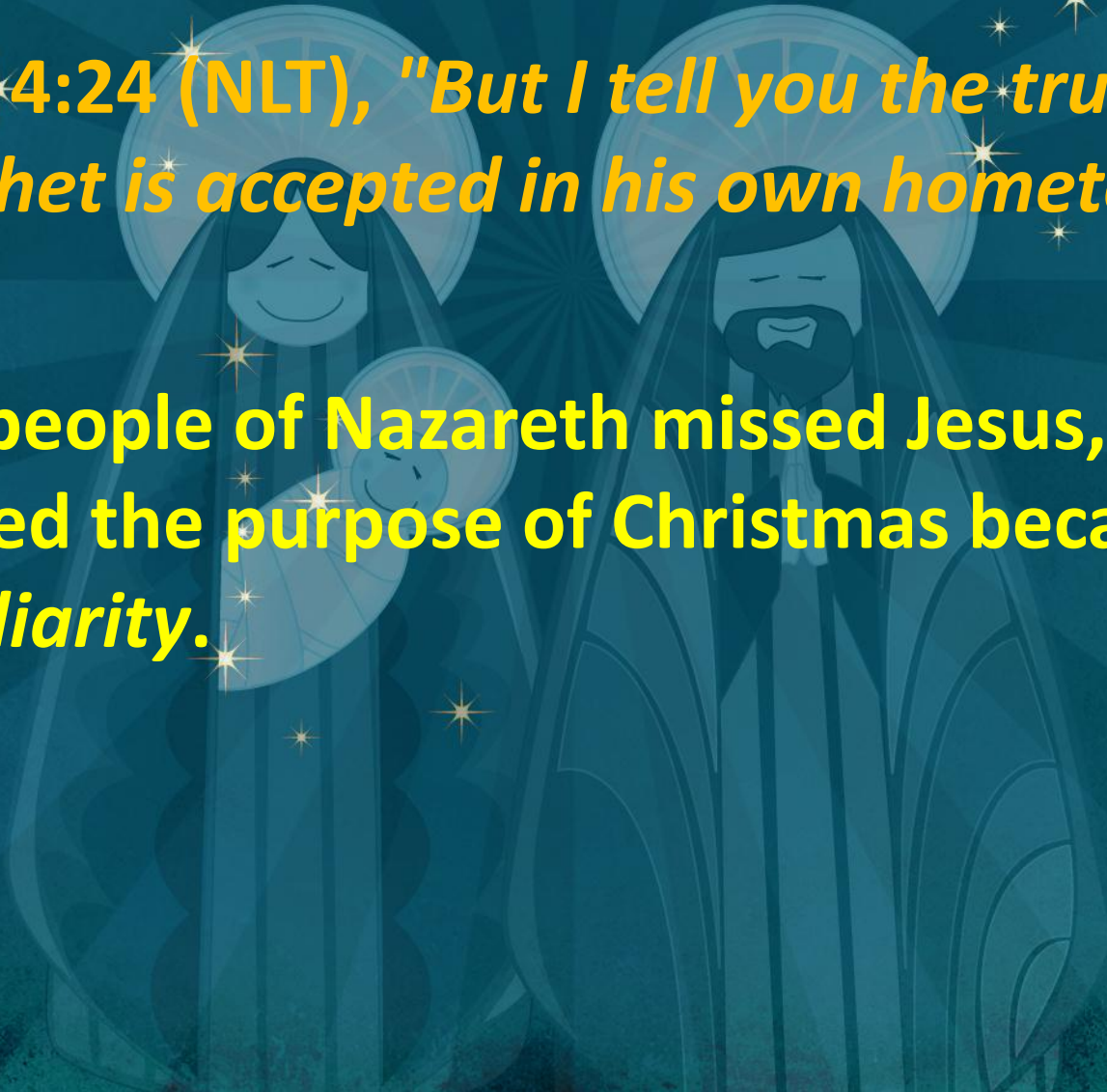
- **Luke 4:20-21 (NLT), “He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to speak to them. ‘The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!’”**

# A Promise (cont'd)

- **Luke 4:22 (NLT), “Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. ‘How can this be?’ they asked. ‘Isn’t this Joseph’s son?’”**
- **Luke 4:28-30 (NLT), “When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. <sup>29</sup> Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, <sup>30</sup> but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.”**

# A Promise (cont'd)

- **Luke 4:24 (NLT), *"But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown."***
- **The people of Nazareth missed Jesus, and missed the purpose of Christmas because of *familiarity*.**



### III. A Person

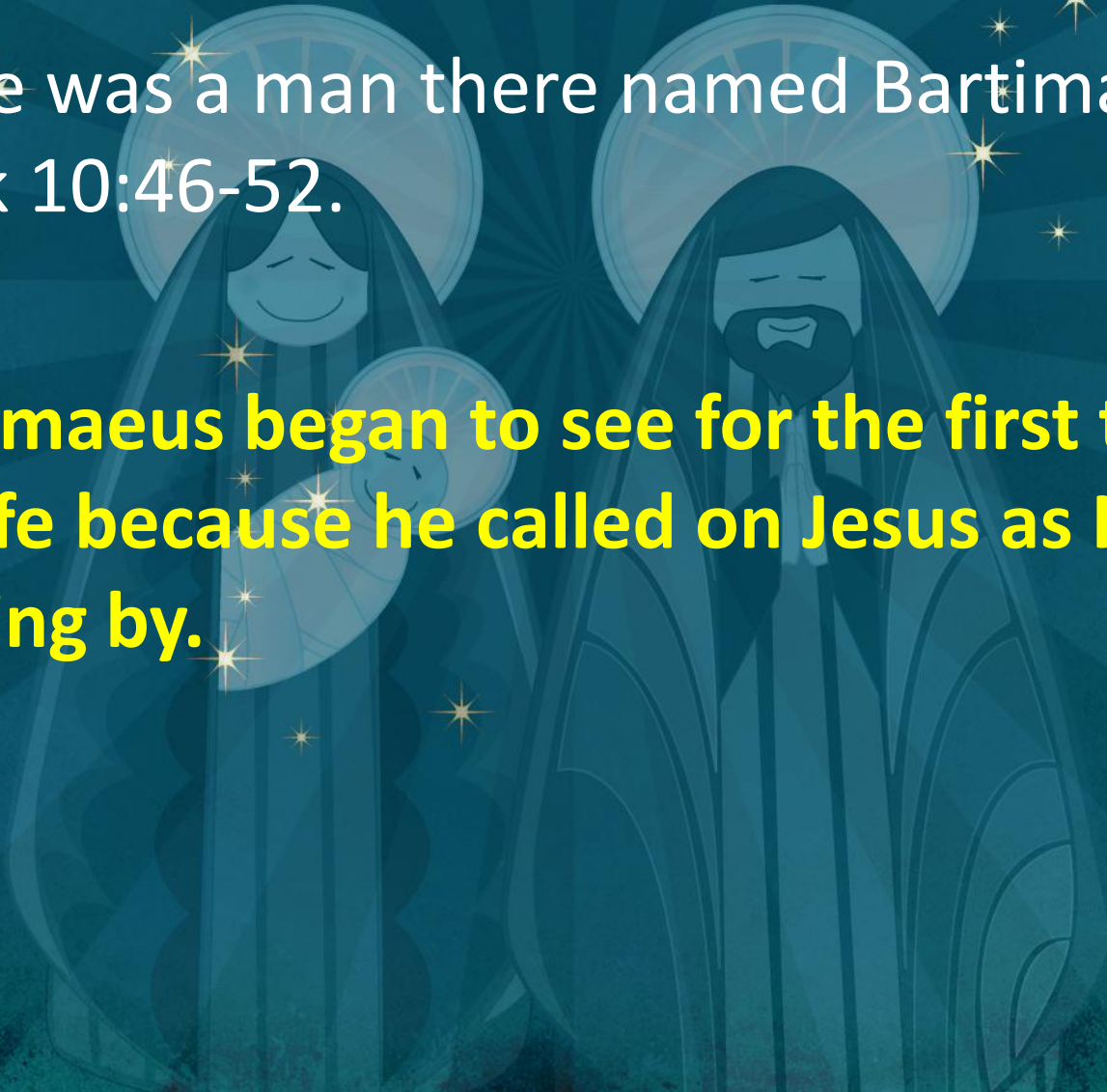
- When Jesus died on that cross, what do you think they put on top of that cross? *"This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."*
- 
- **He carried the name "Nazareth" all the way to the cross.**
- **He took all of our sins with Himself to the cross.**

# Luke 24:17-19 (NLT)

- *He asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?”*
- *They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.”*
- *<sup>19</sup> “What things?” Jesus asked.*
- *“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth, they said.”*

# A Person (cont'd)

- There was a man there named Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52.
- **Bartimaeus began to see for the first time in his life because he called on Jesus as He was passing by.**



# Invitation

- Don't let preoccupation steal Christmas from you this year – take time to focus on the Christ of Christmas.
- Let go of the fear of losing what you are holding so tightly to – and allow God to give you something even greater this Christmas.

# Invitation

- Take a fresh new look at what you assume you already know so well and don't allow pride to keep you from asking God to do something new, something powerful in your life.
- And don't allow your familiarity with the story of Christ to keep you from really accepting and enjoying an intimate relationship with Christ.