

As we enter into the rush of the Christmas season, I like to set aside a few minutes to quiet my mind. I think back on the simplicity of the first Christmas because, to me, the Christmas story has had a fairy tale idea of what it was like in the stable that first Christmas night. My quiet time usually involves sitting in front of a manger set and thinking what it was like on that still evening long ago, in a humble stable with the traditional stable animals resting in the background. A little baby was born - the Son of God. While we may have considered this to be a quiet event, in actuality, the greatest event in history had just happened. The Messiah had been born!!

I always wondered what was going through Mary's mind. Had she wished her mother were there to help her through her first childbirth? She was not afforded the luxury of an epidural or heart monitors. The only ones who witnessed this birth were herself, her husband Joseph, and a few stable animals. However, she KNEW Jesus was virgin born. She knew she was the virgin whom Isaiah had prophesied would deliver the Messiah to the world. The angel had told her "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." Luke 1:32. She was walking down a road no one had ever walked before. A host of angels filled the skies and announced the joyous event to the shepherds telling them they had great news because "for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

A Savior? For us lowly shepherds?? The angels told them "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger." Luke 2:12 If I had been a shepherd, I also would have left for Bethlehem to see this baby who would be my Savior. When the shepherds left the manger, they went away praising God and spreading the news for this was truly a gift from God to man.

For ages, the Jews had waited for this, and when it finally occurred, the announcement came to humble shepherds. Do you know who I feel sorry for? The people at the inn who missed it. They were right next door!! They were too busy with their everyday lives to notice what was taking place eternally.

My reminiscing fills my heart with wonder and brings me into a more purposeful Christmas season, especially when I look at the little baby in the manger and think "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

Reading scripture, we can see God's love woven throughout history as He continually reaches out to man. As difficult as this seemed for Mary & Joseph at the time, this was all part of God's plan.

"Look to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22.

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