

Listening for the Promise

Sola Publishing – Weekly Devotions

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2024

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

- Luke 2:11 -

Faith, the Greatest Gift

Jesus of Nazareth was born in humble of circumstances. His father Joseph was a simple carpenter from a small town in Israel. He was from the line of David, but he was no king. Joseph's wife Mary was a young Jewish girl. Joseph and Mary were forced to travel to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown, during her pregnancy to be recorded in a census that was being taken of the entire Roman world. The journey was long, over harsh wilderness, mostly on foot.

The town of Bethlehem was crowded with others who had traveled to register. There were no rooms left for Joseph and Mary. Mary felt the early pains of childbirth as they searched for a place to stay. At last, an innkeeper allowed them to use his stable. There, among the smell and noises of the beasts of burden, Mary gave birth to her son. Joseph served as the midwife, a feeding trough as the cradle. The first visitors to this humble scene were shepherds, the lowest of the low in their society. When the powerful and mighty discovered His presence, they killed innocent children to protect their positions in the world.

These are humble beginnings for the child of any parent, but this baby born to Joseph and Mary was not just any child. Jesus Christ should have had the best of everything. His parents should have traveled with a grand procession. He should have been born in the finest room of a palace. He should have had the best doctors. His bed should have been covered in silk, and not hay. He should never have feared the swords of men.

But God never does things as we would expect. Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, arrived in the simplest, most frightening way. There was nothing about this nativity that would indicate the Savior of the world had arrived. However, God has given us the greatest gift of all: not only the Savior, but also the faith to know that Jesus of Nazareth is Jesus the Christ, born into this world for us.