

Christmas Is a Story of Faith

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

(Luke 2:1-5, NIV)

Christmas is a story of faith.

It's a story of

hardship and sacrifice,
of long journeys and years of waiting.

Mary, perhaps 14 years old,
endured the terrible shame of
being pregnant before she was married.

After traveling 80 miles to Bethlehem,
no doubt exhausted and frightened,
far from family and home,
she had her first child
in the dirt and darkness
of a stable.

Joseph stayed by her side,
though the child was not his own.
He willingly shared her shame
and her suffering.

Mary, Joseph, and many others
followed God through long, difficult days.
But because they were faithful,
they saw Him
and rejoiced in Him
and became part of His timeless story.

Christmas is a story of faith,
and we too are called to be faithful.
We too can be part of the timeless story of
Jesus.

Consider this:

*Our lives play an important part in
a purpose that is much greater than we can imagine.
We will influence precious people, both present and future.
Father, help us to stay faithful in the place You have put us.*

Listen & Sing: "Walking by Faith"
(<http://www.lnwhymns.com/Hymn.aspx?ID=317>)

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