

December 24, 2023 - MACC Digging Deeper - Luke 2:1-7
MACC Elder Rick Noonan

Day 1

Pray to God, give Him thanks, and ask for His help in your life, confessing your sins to Him. Now would be a great time to break out a new journal for the new year, to write down the ideas and questions God brings to your mind as you study His word. Read Luke 2 verses 1 to 7. In verses 1 through 4, we read about a census and Joseph with Mary having to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. What do you think are the reasons for this census? Why did Rome perform a periodic census? Why do we in the US?

Day2

Pray to God about what he wants you to learn as you study in His word digging deeper into the verses from Sunday's message. Read Luke 2 verses 1 to 7. Why did they have to travel up to Bethlehem? Check out 1 Samuel 16, with a focus on verses 4 and 18. Also, check out Micah 5 verse 2. Nazareth sits at 1100 ft above sea level, and Bethlehem sits at 2600 ft above sea level. How do you think the journey went with Mary on a donkey riding uphill? How fast do you think they could go? How far is it between the two towns? How many days do you think the journey was for Mary and Joseph?

Day3

Pray to God as you learn from His word today. Does He bring to mind someone you need to reconnect with? Send them a text, give them a call, an encouraging word has great power. Read Luke 2 verses 1 to 7. Joseph made the decision to honor Roman law and travel for the census and to pay his taxes, even though it would be a difficult journey for his fiancée who was pregnant. What are some times in your life when you made a difficult choice for the right lawful reasons? How did you feel about them at the time? Did God bless those choices? How do you feel about them now? Check out Romans 13 verses 1 through 5. And also 1 Peter 2 verses 13 through 17. Is there ever a Godly reason to disobey and not follow the law?

Day 4

Find a quiet place to settle your body, mind, and spirit. Pray and write down in your journal what the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and mind. Read Luke 2 verses 1 to 7. In verse 7, Mary wraps her new baby in strips of cloth or swaddling clothes. Why would she have done this, and how do her actions 2000+ years ago compare to how newborn babies are swaddled today?

Day 5

Who else in your life does God want you to be praying for right now? Ask God how is He nudging you to come alongside them with kindness, compassion, mercy, and joy. Write their names down in your journal and pray for them every day. One last time, read Luke 2 verses 1 to 7. In verse 7, Joseph and his fiancé are turned away at the Inn. Do you think there was not enough room, or do you think Joseph was too poor and the innkeeper wanted wealthier clients? Does Joseph raise a ruckus, or does he embrace his situation choosing to focus on helping his fiancée give birth in a barn? When was the last time you embraced your misfortune and considered it joy, looking for ways that God can bless your circumstances for good, and thus the good of others? Check out James 1 verses 1 to 16. The next time you are hit with a setback of some kind, what can you do differently?