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## Luke 2:1-20

1. “Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.
2. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.
4. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,
5. in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.
6. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.
7. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
8. In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.
9. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.
10. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

11. for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
12. ‘This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’
13. And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
14. ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.’
15. When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, ‘Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.’
16. So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.
17. When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.
18. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.
19. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.
20. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.”

I remember as a young child hearing this Scripture on the *Charlie Brown Christmas*, with little Linus reading this passage. The pronunciation of “Quirinius” still rings in my ears. The passage, like Christmas itself, has always been very special to me.

Charlie Brown questions and wonders about the true meaning of Christmas in the midst of all the confusion and materialism of the world. Linus, the innocent child, proclaims the “good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people” to the burdened Charlie Brown. Even as an adult today, such an interplay tugs at my heart strings. So many people wandering around lost in darkness, when our Creator only asks that we come to him as little children: dependent upon Him for the answers to this life.

During my college years I had a roommate who was an archeology major. He described the notion of Christmas with the fact that “no self respecting shepherd would have his sheep out in the fields over night in the middle of winter!” True, according to verse 8 of Luke chapter 2 Jesus probably wasn’t born on December 25. The Bible doesn’t give His birthdate.

But He was born for us, no doubt about it. Come, let us celebrate the facts. He came in the most humble of ways; His nursery was a stall for animals, His crib a feeding trough, His clothes were cloths probably cut or ripped from discarded clothing, and the angels announced His coming to shepherds—the lowest ranking people in that society. As a man He would preach the gospel to the poor.

This Christmas Eve, let’s glory in the facts of His birth and celebrate with all our hearts, all our soul, and with all our might.