Christmas at the Movies
Christmas Relationships
Luke 2:1-7

Main Idea: Apart from Key Relationships, Christmas is Just Another Holiday!

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house & lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son & wrapped him in swaddling cloths & laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." **Luke 2:1-7**

Three Types of Christmas Relationships from Luke 2:1-7

I.   Frustrating Relationships
"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town." **Luke 2:1-3**

"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient of days." **Micah 5:2**

II.   Forming Relationships
"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house & lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child." **Luke 2:4-5**

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints & seek to show hospitality." **Romans 12:9-13**

A forming community surrounds us all. Those we spend the most time with will have the most impact on our lives, for good or bad. This Christmas, immerse yourself with those who will encourage you to love & follow Jesus!

III.   Foundational Relationships
"And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son & wrapped him in swaddling cloths & laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." **Luke 2:6-7**

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave, but a son, & if a son, then an heir through God." **Galatians 6:4-7**

What is your foundational relationship this Christmas? Is it a spouse? A child? Work associate? Boyfriend/Girlfriend? Make it Jesus! Once we have Jesus, we don't hold anything else too tightly anymore. We can freely give because we know that the greatest gift, the gift of Jesus, is already ours!

Invitation: Our most important relationship is with Jesus. He is the foundational relationship for our Christmas season & every season after that! It is Jesus who helps us deal with the frustrating relationships and will use our forming relationships for His glory! Just like Christmas with the Kranks was all about Blair, Christmas in Your Home should be All About Jesus!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:
- *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles R. Swindoll (1998)
- *NAC Series: Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *Daily Bible Study Series: Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Expository Outlines in the NT* – Warren Wiersbe (1992)
- *Holman NT Commentary* – Trent C. Butler (2000)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *Christmas with the Kranks* – Columbia Pictures (2004)