

Christmas Outside the Box: Expect the Unexpected

Christmas for the Crazy Busy

Luke 2:1-7

“When our lives are frantic & frenzied, we are more prone to anxiety, resentment, impatience, & irritability.” **Kevin DeYoung**

Christmas Outside the Box: What if this year was different? What if this Christmas season would not be described as “Crazy Busy” for you? What if this year God has something different for you, your family & friends?

Main Idea: Settle Down; God has it All Under Control

“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 and 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 and 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 Reasons the Crazy Busy Can Settle Down

I. God is Sovereign Over Everything

“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

Why Bethlehem? *“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 days.”*

Micah 5:2

“History is HIS story.” **A.T. Pierson (Presbyterian Pastor, 1837-1911)**

“History is the unrolled scroll of prophecy,”

James Garfield, Fmr US President

II. God has a Plan for All My Steps

“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 and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.” **Luke 2:4-5**

“The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way,” **Psalms 37:23**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” **Psalms 119:105**

III. God is Inviting Me to Be Still & Recognize His Goodness

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

“Be still and know that I am God.” **Psalms 46:10a**

“Busyness serves as a kind of existential reassurance, a hedge against emptiness; obviously your life cannot possibly be silly or trivial or meaningless if you are so busy, completely booked, in demand every hour of the day.”

Tim Kreider, New York Times

“Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.” **Luke 10:38**

*“And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet & listened to his teaching. But Martha was **distracted** with much serving. And she went up to him & said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.’”* **Luke 10:39-40**

Distracted: A passive word meaning “drawn away in many different directions from a preferred focal point”. Our preferred focal point is Jesus & there are no limits to the things that will draw us away from Him this Christmas. Jesus has a word for Martha & us...

“But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious & troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.’” **Luke 10:41-42**

Jesus explains that Busyness is not Sinful, but Busyness is not BEST! One thing is necessary this Christmas & it’s not an office party, epic Christmas dinner, the perfect gifts for everyone, smooth travel plans or even church events...It is necessary that you be still & recognize his goodness this Christmas!

Main Idea: Settle Down; God has it All Under Control

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Strong’s Concordance* – James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *New Bible Commentary* – Carson, France, Motyer & Wenham (1994)
- *Holman Old Testament Commentary* – Max Anders (2004)
- *New American Commentary: Luke* – Robert H. Stein (1992)
- *Daily Bible Study Series: The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Wilmington’s Bible Handbook* – Harold Wilmington (1997)
- *Crazy Busy* – Kevin DeYoung (2013)
- *The ‘Busy’ Trap* – Tim Kreider, NYT (2012)

