

Advance to the Manger — Day 10

Advance in Humility

Luke 2:1-7 TPT

“During those days, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, ordered that the first census be taken throughout his empire. (Quirinius was the governor of Syria at that time.) Everyone had to travel to the hometown of their family to complete the mandatory census. So Joseph and his wife, Mary, left Nazareth, a village in Galilee, and journeyed to their hometown in Judea, to the village of Bethlehem, King David’s ancient home. They were required to register there, since they were both direct descendants of David. Mary was pregnant and nearly ready to give birth. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary went into labor, and there she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped the newborn baby in strips of cloth, and Mary and Joseph laid him in a feeding trough since there was no available space in any upper room in the village.”

Introduction:

A Humble Arrival

- Read Scripture: Luke 2:1-7
- Reflect on the humble circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth.
- Live in humility and simplicity to the Christmas season.

As we journey towards the manger, let us reflect on the humble arrival of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In Luke's Gospel, we find the account of His birth, which took place in the most unlikely of settings. Today, let us explore this passage and discover the profound lessons we can learn as we advance to the manger through the humble arrival.

Heart Reflection

1. The Decree (Verse 1)

The story begins with a decree by Caesar Augustus, a powerful ruler of that time. This decree required everyone to be registered in their hometowns. Little did Caesar know that his decree would set in motion a divine plan to fulfill ancient prophecies and bring salvation to the world. Sometimes, the circumstances that seem ordinary or even inconvenient can be part of God's greater plan for our lives. As we advance to the manger, let us trust that God is working through every detail, even in the humblest of circumstances.

2. The Challenge (Verses 4-5):

Joseph and Mary, a humble couple from Nazareth, were required to make a journey to Bethlehem for the census. This journey, undertaken in the late stages of Mary's pregnancy, would have been challenging and physically demanding. Yet, they obediently followed the decree, unaware of the divine significance of their actions. In our own lives, God may lead us on unexpected paths that require humility and obedience. As we advance to the manger, let us be willing to embrace the humble journey, trusting that God is guiding our steps.

3. The Atmosphere (Verses 6-7):

In the humblest of circumstances, with no proper accommodation, Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God. Instead of a grand palace or a luxurious setting, the King of kings was laid in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. This humble arrival of Jesus reminds us that God chose to

enter the world in the midst of lowliness and poverty. Through this act, He identifies with the marginalized, the outcasts, and the humble. As we advance to the manger, let us remember that God meets us in our lowly and humble moments. He brings hope, love, and salvation to all, regardless of their circumstances or social status.

Call To Action

- **Accept The Challenge**
 - Realize God uses any circumstance.
 - Take the challenge to prove you can be trusted.
 - Be assured He is faithful to His Word.

- **Embrace Humility**
 - Take on the attitude of Christ.
 - Stay humble in as you advance.
 - Never get too proud or pious for what God has called you too.
 - Remember He washed feet before He died.

Take A Way

As we advance to the manger through the humble arrival, let us be reminded of the profound lessons embedded in this story. God works through unlikely circumstances, fulfilling His purposes in ways we may not understand. He calls us to embrace the humble journey, trusting His guidance and provision. And He meets us in our lowest moments, bringing hope and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Take a moment to reflect on the humility of Jesus' birth and the lessons it teaches us. Consider how you can embrace humility and obedience in your own journey of faith. Thank God for His presence in the humblest of circumstances and ask Him to help you advance to the manger with a humble and obedient heart.

May this devotional on advancing to the manger through the humble arrival deepen your appreciation for the ways in which God works in ordinary and humble circumstances. May you be inspired to embrace humility and obedience in your own journey of faith, as you draw closer to the manger and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Prayer:

Oh Lord,
as we approach the manger, we are humbled by the arrival of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach us to embrace humility and obedience in our journey of faith. Help us to trust Your guidance even in the most unlikely circumstances. Thank You for meeting us in our lowliness and bringing hope and salvation through Jesus. May our hearts be filled with gratitude as we celebrate His birth. In His precious name, we pray. Amen.