

Study Notes:

What is your favorite Christmas song/carol?
Why is it your favorite?

Are there any Christmas songs you really don't like?

What are the memories or traditions of Christmas that fill you with the most joy?

Thinking back to Sunday's service, what encouraged you, inspired you, challenged you, or changed your thinking?

Why do you think it was significant for Luke to include actual people and places in his description of the birth of Jesus?

What was the significance of Jesus being born in Bethlehem?
What took place to get Mary and Joseph there for His birth?

What events in **Luke 2:1-11** show God's sovereignty?
In what ways does God act contrary to what seems logical?

Read **Philippians 2:3-11**.

What example does Paul use to encourage us to embrace humility?

What do these verses have to do with the Christmas story?

How is the exaltation following Jesus' humbling Himself an encouragement to us in our daily living?

Some have said there are 365 occurrences of "fear not" in the Bible. In reality, there are closer to 100 declarations not to fear. Still, that's a lot. Why do you think we need to hear that message so frequently?

Read **Luke 2:10-11**.

What is the ultimate remedy for our fears?

What is the ultimate source of our joy?

How is this joy greater than our typical happiness?

Read **Luke 2:15-18**.

What was the shepherds response having seen Jesus?
How should we imitate them?

GRACE NOTES

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Series: Come Home for Christmas

Message: Come Home to Joy

Scripture: Luke 2:1-11

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

⁴ 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, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
(ESV, English Standard Version)

"Christmas is a delightful disruption of the way things normally go."

(William Willimon, Dean of the Chapel at Duke University)

"I sometimes wonder if all pleasures are not substitutes for joy."

(C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

"A person cannot truly live without joy. So when he is deprived of true spiritual joys, it is inevitable that he becomes addicted to earthly pleasures."

(Thomas Aquinas)

