

## *“Simply Christmas Advent Devotions”*



### *“Heart Box”*

*“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”  
(Luke 2:19)*

I have a “heart box” sitting on the top of my dresser, a place where I keep treasures from special moments and memories in my life to preserve them from being lost or destroyed. At certain times each year, I spend some time pondering all the memories contained in my heart box. Each item has its own special place in my heart.

I am convinced we have the Christmas Story today because Mary had a heart box. Luke is the only gospel writer that tells us *“Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”* Matthew has only a few paragraphs about the birth of Jesus. *Mark and John* have nothing. Yet, *Luke* has two full chapters (100 verses) dedicated to intimate details, emotions, and events in the life of Mary, Joseph, Zechariah and Elizabeth, as they journey through their pregnancies and childbirth experiences together. New Testament scholars tell us Luke got all his information from Mary’s heart box.

What was she pondering that night? Angels singing to shepherds? A newborn baby from a virgin? Did Mary ponder the words of, Isaiah, *“a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, Immanuel?”* (Is. 7:14) Or, *Micah’s promise, “Bethlehem, though small, out of you will come a ruler of Israel?”* (Micah 5:2) Maybe she pondered the angel Gabriel’s words to her nine months prior, *“You will conceive and give birth to a son and call him Jesus.”* (Luke 1:30) Was this why her cousin Elizabeth greeted her with, *“Why am I so favored that the Mother of my LORD would come to me?”* (Luke 1:43) The angel’s words were fresh on her heart, *“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”* (Luke 2:11) Mary treasured all these things in her heart.

So what about us? In the midst of this unprecedented Christmas Season, may we treasure the profound simplicity of the Christmas story in new and fresh ways. No shopping malls. No parties and dinners out with family and friends. No travel. In many ways, I am looking forward to a simple Christmas with Lynne and Sophie. May special memories from this unique Christmas end up in our heart boxes this year!