

## THE ROAD HOME PART I DECEMBER 14-15, 2019

### INTRODUCTION

- Each year we come to Christmas some of us with huge expectations, others dreading the moment.
- The first Christmas was full of struggle and it was initiated by a demand from a dictator, Augustus Caesar.
- Luke 2:1-5, "...Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken... all returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea... He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child."

### I. THE ROAD HOME IS OFTEN TOUGH

- Mary and Joseph are on a journey with God that is a road home to Him, to His heart and His way of living.
- It is often a hard, narrow road.
- The world Mary and Joseph lived in was very unstable.
- So a 90 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem would have been both dangerous and grueling.
- Mary was a poor first-century Jewish girl.
- She had a deep faith and a strong will.
- Joseph would have been familiar with tough times and demanding labor as a carpenter.
- He was strong and resilient, with rough, dirty hands.
- Mary and Joseph lived under the huge burden of Roman judicial and military rule.

### II. THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

- Joseph's family of origin was from Bethlehem so he had to go back to register to be taxed.
- It was intended to degrade people and keep them in bondage, even to make their bondage worse.
- But this was extraordinarily God's road for them.
- It had been spoken 700 years before they were born - Micah 5:2.
- Bethlehem was more than their destination it was their destiny.
- God has a plan for each of us, a road home to Him.
- It will be rough sometimes and full of surprises and difficulty, but it is still God.

### III. IT IS EASY TO LOSE YOUR WAY

- We lose our way when we lose our heart.
- When we question the things that are going on without faith.
- When we think we know better than God.
- Joseph hadn't ever settled the whole deal about Mary committing adultery – Matthew 1:18-25
- He needed a dream from God to marry her and then it had to have been at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.
- Mary must have felt rejected and shamed at that point.
- The road home looked like a disaster!
- The road was dark, but it led home.
- This has always been the way of God.

### CLOSE

- When God has His hand completely on you as you trust Him... Then the disaster can become a huge faith adventure and a blessing that you could have never had if you chart your own course.