



Recapturing the Wonder of Christmas

Luke 2:1-7 (ESV)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

I. Fresh eyes are always a key to recapturing wonder.

- Christmas is a reminder that God writes better stories than we can imagine!

Mark 10:13-16 (ESV)

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." ¹⁶And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

- Having fresh eyes means recapturing childlike faith.

- Christmas dares us to wonder again.

2. You can't have wonder without wandering.

- We are all somewhere between Nazareth and Bethlehem.

Travel tips for your wandering:

1. Wandering is hard but don't give up on the journey!

Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

2. When you don't understand what God is doing, remember what God has spoken.

Micah 5:2 (ESV)

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.

3. A valley doesn't mean a wrong turn.

4. It takes a mess to have a miracle.

Many of the things in our lives that on the surface seem inconvenient, confusing, or difficult, may be the hand of God leading us to our own Bethlehem!