

JOURNEYS:
Advent week 2
12/7/2025

DAY 1: THE JOURNEY BEGINS WITH YES

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Reflection:

Mary's journey didn't start on a dusty road to Bethlehem. It started in a quiet moment with a terrifying message from God.

Think about what she was being asked to do. She would face scandal, shame, possibly even death. Her reputation would be destroyed. Her friends would whisper. Her family would be humiliated.

And yet, she said yes.

Not because she understood the whole plan. Not because it made sense. Not because it was convenient or comfortable.

She said yes because she trusted God's character more than she feared the unknown.

Every significant journey with God begins the same way — with a choice to trust Him even when you can't see where the path leads.

Maybe God is asking you to say yes to something today. Something that feels risky. Something that doesn't make sense. Something that's going to cost you.

What if your yes is the beginning of something beautiful that you can't even imagine yet?

Reflection Questions:

1. What is God asking you to say yes to right now?
2. What fears are holding you back from taking that step?
3. How can you trust God's character today, even when you can't see the outcome?

DAY 2: GOD PREPARES YOU ON THE JOURNEY

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Reflection:

Joseph could have walked away. It would have been the safer choice, the easier choice, the choice that protected his reputation.

But he didn't.

He chose to stay. To trust. To obey.

And here's what's beautiful: the months between the angel's visit and that 90-mile journey to Bethlehem weren't wasted time. They were preparation time.

Every whisper Joseph ignored was building his courage.

Every time Mary held her head high despite the gossip, she was developing the strength she'd need to stand at the foot of the cross years later.

Every day they chose to trust God when nothing made sense, they were being shaped into the parents who would raise the Son of God.

The same is true for you.

The season you're in right now — even if it feels like wilderness, even if it feels like nothing's happening — God is using it to prepare you for what's ahead.

The waiting isn't wasted. It's working.

Reflection Questions:

1. What hard season are you in right now that might be preparation for something ahead?
2. How has God used past difficult seasons to prepare you for where you are today?
3. What character quality might God be building in you through your current circumstances?

DAY 3: THE LONGEST JOURNEY

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:5-8

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Reflection:

Mary and Joseph's 90-mile journey to Bethlehem was hard. But Jesus' journey was infinitely harder.

He left the glory of heaven — where He was worshiped by angels, where He lacked nothing, where He was home — and came to earth.

He traded omnipotence for the helplessness of an infant.

He traded the worship of heaven for the rejection of humanity.

He traded the throne for a feeding trough, and eventually, for a cross.

Why would He do that?

Because He loves you.

Not in some distant, cosmic way. In a real, personal, I-know-your-name kind of way.

Jesus made the longest journey anyone has ever made — from heaven to earth, from perfection to brokenness, from life to death — so that you could make the journey from death to life.

He walked the hard road so you wouldn't have to walk it alone.

That's the heart of Christmas. God didn't just send a message. He became the message. He didn't just tell us He loves us. He showed us by coming to us.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does understanding Jesus' journey from heaven to earth deepen your appreciation for Christmas?
2. In what ways have you experienced Jesus walking with you through hard times?
3. How can you reflect Jesus' humility and sacrifice in your relationships this week?

DAY 4: YOU DON'T WALK ALONE

Scripture Reading: John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Reflection:

Here's one of the most important truths about the Christian life: you were never meant to walk this journey alone.

When Jesus made His journey to earth, He didn't do it to give us a self-help program or a list of rules to follow. He did it to be WITH us.

Emmanuel. God with us.

Not God far away, watching from a distance.

Not God waiting at the finish line for us to make it on our own.

God WITH us. Walking beside us. Carrying us when we can't walk anymore.

And not only is Jesus with you, but He's also given you the gift of community — other travelers on the same journey who can encourage you when you're discouraged, carry you when you're weak, and remind you of truth when you're tempted to believe lies.

If you've been trying to walk this journey alone, it's time to stop.

Reach out. Show up. Be honest about where you're struggling. Let others into your journey.

Because the road is too hard to walk alone. And the good news is, you don't have to.

Reflection Questions:

1. Are you trying to walk your journey alone? Why?
2. Who in your life could you reach out to for support and encouragement?
3. Who might God be calling you to walk alongside in their journey?

DAY 5: KEEP WALKING

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:4-7

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Reflection:

Mary and Joseph walked 90 miles to Bethlehem. Every step was hard. Every mile was uncertain. But they kept walking.

And when they arrived, there was no comfortable place to stay. No clean bed. No family to help. Just a stable and a feeding trough.

It wasn't what they expected. It wasn't what they would have chosen.

But it was exactly where God wanted them to be.

Because in that stable, in that unexpected place, in that uncomfortable moment, the Savior of the world was born.

Your journey might not look like you expected either.

The road might be harder than you thought.

The destination might be different than you imagined.

But if you keep walking, if you keep trusting, if you keep following Jesus one step at a time, you will arrive exactly where God wants you to be.

And you'll look back one day and see that every hard mile, every uncomfortable moment, every unexpected turn was leading you to something beautiful.

So whatever you're facing today: keep walking.

Keep trusting.

Keep following.

Because Jesus is with you on the journey. And with Him, you'll make it home.

Reflection Questions:

1. What would it look like for you to "keep walking" in faith today?
2. How has God been faithful to you on your journey so far?
3. What hope does the Christmas story give you for your journey ahead?