

DEB MCGREGOR

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SPECIAL
GUEST

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joy and
love

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.

Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. 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.

John 13:34

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Key Points:

1. God loves YOU!
2. Prepare your heart to be open with love.
 - A. Read Scripture
 - B. Be aware of your won sin. Bring it to the Lord. Make amendments where you can
 - C. Pray
 - D. Journal
 - E. Express love to others in your actions.
3. As Christians, everything we do is about LOVE! God's perfect love works in us. We can love with the love of Jesus. We will never look into the eyes of someone Jesus doesn't love. Jesus died for ALL of us, not some of us.

Reflection:

Advent is a time of preparation. Preparation draws our eyes to God. This is a time and place where God's people following the New Testament drop themselves into the shoes of the Old Testament believer and look ahead to the promises of the Messiah. Jesus has come once and we also shift our focus to the belief that He will come again. Love shines brightly through it all.

Christmas is an accounting of the birth of Jesus. Jesus didn't come in on a limo and into the nicest Inn available. Mary, very pregnant, rode on a donkey. Jesus was put in a feeding trough. God shows His love to us by sending Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings as a humble baby and full of humility. This is how God chose to bring His Son to the world. It is real and our lives often look like this too. The wooden manger is a foreshadowing of the cross.

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