

E-DEVOTION FOR DECEMBER 17

In Luke, chapter 2 we read about the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth, their hometown, to Bethlehem. We have all speculated on what a trip that had to be! Young, pregnant girl... sitting on donkey, over some rough terrain.

You may have heard me tell this before... whenever we take a car trip, I usually like to start out about 3-4 hours before we had really planned to leave. I want to get a head start! And then, I'll calculate just how many hours we can go before my eyes are so tired, I can't see the road ahead. I'm usually just FOCUSED on the end of the day! The END of the trip! My wife often comments... "Can't you just enjoy the journey instead of always thinking of the destination?"

That's just my nature, I guess. I've been wondering about Joseph. How do you think he felt taking off from Nazareth? He knew he had no choice, he had to register for the taxation. Somehow, I imagine he may have been a little like me... let's just GET THERE! There probably wasn't a great deal of gorgeous scenery to enjoy, anyway. He must have felt the terrible weight of responsibility for this young woman and the unborn child.

So... here we are! Advent IV just ahead! We're almost at the destination. Christmas is just one week away. And, true to nature... I find myself concentrating on December 24th and 25th. Whoa! I think I'm going to take a break. I think I'm going to just try to stay focused on this part of the journey. My heart needs a little work to find room for that Christmas event.

Pause... picture that little family. Plodding along on their trip. Uncomfortable? I am sure. Not what they had hoped and planned for? Absolutely. But there they are... one step after another. That is how we can find ourselves these last days of our Advent journey. One step at a time.

While you're on this last leg of the journey, wear a mask. Wash your hands, fold them... picture that cross with your thumbs... bow your heads, pray for not only the destination... but for courage while we continue on the way.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, we find ourselves impatient on this journey. We want the end to come. But we know we live in your time, not our own. Give us courage as we go these last miles... give us patience. Give us peace. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen"