Daily Devotion #199

**Do You Remember When…?**

**Luke 2:4-5 (NASB)** *“Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child*.”

This time of year brings back lots of memories. I remember so vividly the time when my dad and mom started doing a treasure hunt on Christmas day for my brother and sister and me. It was so fun. The last gift opening was our stockings. And usually mom would put some little gifts in it that would be the final hoorah. But one year, my dad put notes in our stockings. The first note was a clue that led to a trip around the house or out to the barn or the car or the basement or somewhere to find the next note. Then that note would take us to another note. I remember well when my brother and I finally made it to the prize that first year. It was a stereo with a turn table and get this, an eight track tape player! Boy were we excited. Little did I know then, but that adventure would turn in to a family tradition for years to come. Even now, our family has made the treasure hunt the most exciting part of Christmas day.

I have often wondered about memories that people make on significant days, especially on Christmas. I have wondered if all the other families make such a big deal out of the day? I guess I’ll never know that, but what I do know is making memories is a huge and important part of life. And I think God is all about making memories. For example, He left us with significant events in the Bible that would help us know Him better and the people He used in those days. Can you imagine the day Joseph proposed to Mary? We don’t have record of when the exact day was or the timing. Did he take her by the hand and lead her out on some quiet evening in Nazareth, maybe over-looking the fields? Was it beside some pond or beautiful field? Did he get down on one knee? Was it in the local coffee shop? I’m not trying to be funny or disrespectful, but we have to assume it was a great event in their lives.

We don’t know those details, but what we are told is that there was an engagement. That’s all God wanted us to know evidently or He would have said more. And we know God didn’t make more out of the moment Joseph asked for Mary’s hand in marriage, because He didn’t want that to be the focus as much as He did the greater event, which was to tell us that they were married. That was a significant enough memory for them and for us. But He did tell us more. He told us the rest of the story – that they would get word to travel to Bethlehem and then deliver their new baby, the Christ, the Son of God.

I’m so thankful God let us in on those days. Not only did those days create a lasting memory in the hearts of Joseph and Mary, but think about their parents and the other family members and extended family. And think of the joy of what their marriage must have been like. To be the parents of God in the flesh. And you and I have the joy of knowing about it also. Every year, we celebrate Jospeh and Mary’s events and the coming of Christ which has made incredible impressions in our memories.

I’m sure there are some not-so-good memories as well. Too often this time of year brings lots of bad memories. Relationships that once were. Events that were once joyful but now are gone forever. Deaths that have occurred. But would God have us focus on the bad memories? I don’t think so. I think God wants us to remember the greatest of all memories, the day of our salvation. Yes, that is a greatest of memories for all who know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

I pray that during this Christmas, in the middle of a year that has changed us all, that we will focus on the joy of knowing Christ. That we will focus on the day Jesus came into our hearts and changed us. I pray that you and I will remember what God did through His great act of mercy so you and I will live forever. Think about that! We will live forever! With Him! That’s a reality to hold on to.