

Week 50
345/20

Transforming Daily
“... all went to be registered ...”
Luke 2:3

There is something big brotherish about a census. The government wanting to know who you are, where you are, and what you've been doing. On the other hand, a census might be helpful perhaps to aid the government with statistics. Those statistics could direct the authorities in better spending economically, in research medically, educationally, and sociologically, as well as to give insight on matters politically. In this case, the census was used to fulfill Scripture prophetically.

What better way to get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem than to make it a legal mandate. If it were left up to them they might have come up with a myriad of excuses to why they couldn't make the trip. One of the most practical excuses would have been for the very reason they were to make the trip in the first place and that was because Mary was almost ready to give birth.

I remember when my wife was pregnant with our first child. She joined me on a summer youth camp. If I had to do that over again, I would object to her making the trip. She wasn't that far along, but far enough along that when our daughter came three months early, I was convinced that it was due to the inconveniences of that trip. There was the 17 hour long yellow-school-bus trip up and back, living in the “dog houses” for a week, early mornings and late nights, cold, cold, cold showers and wooden bunks. There were the hours of performing, ministering, and counseling, etc. All of this is part-and-parcel of the youth ministry gig, but not the most ideal conditions when you're with child.

Mary traveled, what, 100 miles on foot? The journey was over mountains, hills and through valleys, across desert terrain as well as fording bodies of water, and I imagine it was pretty cold. All of this for our first Christmas? All of this for the cause of Christ? Gives you something to think about doesn't it?

How far of a trip is it to your church? How do you travel? What is the distance you travel for other ministry opportunities? Do you miss a meal to get there? Do you have to wade through rivers and creeks, cross desert terrain, or have to climb mountains on foot? Think about your journey for Christ and compare it to Mary and Joseph's when they all went to be registered.