

# Joy for Christmas

Luke 2:4-5



DAY TWENTY-FOUR



## David Loberg

My name is David Loberg. I've been married to my wife, Helena for 37 years. We have two daughters and seven grandchildren, who are the joy of our lives. We are original members of BCF and have served in small groups, greeting, and the cookie ministry. I am a member of the Gideon's Ministry, which distributes Bibles worldwide, and a docent at the zoo, where I give tours. I enjoy walking, reading, travelling, and attending high school sports events.

*Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancé, who was pregnant. Luke 2:4-5 (The Message)*

Christmas Day, 1967, was difficult for me. I wanted to be home with my family opening presents, attending church, and sitting down to a delicious Christmas dinner. Instead, I was in the Navy, 1,000 miles from home, guarding a huge airplane hangar. Later that day, I would sit down to Christmas dinner in the mess hall with strangers. It wasn't the Christmas I wanted or planned. Mary and Joseph didn't plan on Jesus being born in a stable that first Christmas either, but that is what happened (*Luke 2:1-20*).

Commercial advertising during the Christmas season tries to make us believe that everyone is having a jolly time. This is not so. Seldom do things go as planned. People will argue over sports or politics, the dinner will be cold, or the car won't start. Despise all this, it is important to focus on what Christmas is all about. Remember that ***"for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*** (*Luke 2:11, NAS*) There will be no perfection until we get to heaven.

With all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, this is a time to slow down a bit and be grateful for what we have. The Psalmist said, ***"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"***. (*Psalm 118:24, NAS*). We should say that every morning when we wake up and remember it every hour of the day. With all the disappointments and hardships in life, it is important to be grateful. This in turn will lead to contentment. Strive to be like the Apostle Paul who said, ***"... for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am."*** (*Philippians 4:11, NAS*)

It is not easy for some people to feel joyous during the Christmas season. Some are homeless or in nursing homes. There are refugees and people suffering from chronic illnesses. Some people have recently lost loved ones and are grieving, and others are miles away from home. Pray for all these people and reach out to those you can. They could be any of us. So, when you sit down to Christmas dinner and little Billy spills the gravy boat on your new shirt, and you jump up just in time to see the dog pee on the carpet, just smile and say to yourself, ***"This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it."*** (*Psalms 118:24, NAS*)

1. Who will you reach out to during this Christmas season?
2. Will you choose to be thankful this Christmas regardless of your circumstances?