



*Celebrate Whatever Your Circumstances*  
Series: The Christmas You've Always Longed For (#3)  
Luke 2:1-20  
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl  
December 17, 2023

Theme: **A Christ-honoring Christmas requires conquering circumstances.**

### **The original Christmas**

1. Mary's far from ideal circumstances
  - a. Shattered dreams.
  - b. Strange surroundings.
  - c. Scant quarters.
  - d. Simple welcome.
2. Mary's far from normal response.
  - a. What we do not find. (Luke 2:1-20)
  - b. What we do find. (Luke 2:19)

### **Your Christmas, 2023**

1. Your circumstances? Far from ideal?
2. Your response?

## In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

**Monday.** Christmas is a week away. Your schedule is full and overflowing. What about your heart? Begin this Christmas week by spending time with God, reflecting on His great love for you. Christ was born to die on the cross and be raised from the dead for you. Spend time in expressing your love, adoration, thankfulness and praise to God.

**Tuesday.** On that first Christmas, Mary's conditions were far from ideal—including shattered dreams, strange surroundings, scant quarters and a simple welcome. As you review these examples, try to picture them in your mind. What would your thoughts and feelings have been?

**Wednesday.** Today focus on Mary's far from normal response. Review any notes you made and the passage in Luke chapter 2, paying attention to both what we do not find and do find in her response. Thank God for her faithfulness to Him.

**Thursday.** One more list before Christmas comes tomorrow: the list of your far from ideal circumstances this Christmas which, if they conquer you, will dampen your celebration. Bring each item on your list to God, and determine by His grace that you will conquer each one with respect to celebrating Christ's birth. Pray and prepare for and the Christmas Service on Sunday.

**Friday – Saturday.** On Sunday we will meet at 2:30 p.m., rather than our regular time of 10:30 p.m., for our Christmas Service. Our focus will be on *What Child Is This?* Make sure you join in this celebration of the birth of Christ, if you are able.