

Born For You

Part Four

December 17, 2023

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep...

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:8-12, New Living Translation 2nd Edition)

Jesus was approachable.

I will let people into my life.

- **Does my attitude invite people in? (Or does my face say, "stay away from me"?)**
- **Am I a listener? (Or, do I have an answer and opinion for everything?)**
- **Am I humble? Whose name do I want people to remember?**
- **Do people see Jesus in me?**

Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often.
(Luke 2:19, NLT2)

- ✓ We are courteous....don't cut off people in traffic and if we do, by accident, we apologize.
- ✓ We are patience... when the salesperson on the other end of the phone is a royal pain
- ✓ We are authentic!

Jesus was accessible.

I will make time for people.

- **What does my schedule look like?**
 - **Do I find myself too busy?**
 - **Do my emails and business calls push people to the bottom of the list?**
 - **Do other people's needs push my family to the bottom of the list?**
 - **Do I retreat to Instagram reels over real people?**
- ✓ Take time to get on the floor and play with your children or grandchildren.
 - ✓ Notice that homeless person you see sitting in the corner of Whataburger, give him eye contact, say hi.
 - ✓ Get down on one knee when you talk to a child.
 - ✓ Set specific time in your schedule to serve someone else, someone in need. You can do this as a family.

Jesus was available.

I will give people my undivided attention.

- **Am I available to others this Christmas season?**
 - **Am I paying attention, really paying attention... really listening?**
 - **Are people my focus?**
- ✓ Be available to those in need.
Be available by simply starting to smile.
 - ✓ Smiles invite smiles
 - ✓ Smiles invite further conversation
 - ✓ Smiles turn tense situations into tender moments

You will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.

(Luke 2:12, NLT 2nd edition)