It is Christmas time in Kentucky! One of the prettiest times in our area as far as decorations go; AND one of the worst times to travel to one side of town to the other or have to run a “quick” errand. Quick is not a word you can use to describe anything happening around the area right now. However, it is also one of the BEST times to be a Christian and to reflect on the birth of Jesus!

Have you heard the song ***A Baby Changes Everything*** *by* Faith Hill? As far as I know she is the only artist who has done it, but don’t quote me on that. It is one of my favorite more current Christmas songs. It is not one I listened to with my mom and dad years ago! Although it is new to my list of favorites, it has become a cherished part of my Christmas season list of music and also helps tell part of the story of my Christian faith. The words are below…

**Teenage girl, much too young
Unprepared for what's to come
A baby changes everything**

**Not a ring on her hand
All her dreams and all her plans
A baby changes everything
A baby changes everything**

**The man she loves she's never touched
How will she keep his trust?
A baby changes everything
A baby changes everything**

**And she cries!
Ooh, she cries
Ooh, oh**

**She has to leave, go far away
Heaven knows she can't stay
A baby changes everything**

**She can feel He's coming soon
There's no place, there's no room
A baby changes everything
A baby changes everything**

**And she cries!
And she cries!
Oh, she cries**

**gather 'round
(Up above the star shines down) star shines down
(A baby changes everything)**

**Choir of angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
A baby changes everything
A baby changes everything
Everything, everything, everything**

**Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah**

**My whole life has turned around
I was lost but now I'm found
A baby changes everything, yeah
A baby changes everything**

As I read the words or listen to the song, I am moved to tears every time, visualizing a teenage girl finding out she is pregnant with no plan in a day when that was NOT ok. Mary, chosen by God to bear a child who would transform the world, had to be confused and very scared. I think about her journey, her surrender and her unwavering FAITH in the divine plan. **A Baby Changes EVERYTHING!!**

She and Joseph had to travel for days over many horrible conditions to get to Bethlehem. I remember how uncomfortable it was riding in the car for long periods of time. Can you imagine riding a donkey through the desert for days or weeks? Mary was one tough girl! When they get where they are going they don’t have a room, they have a stable. Things I have read say they may actually have had more privacy that way. Still, a stable is probably not what Mary had in mind when she delivered the Lord of Lord, Prince of Peace! **A Baby Changes EVERYTHING!!**

*Luke 2:7 NIV*

*and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

As I listen to the end of the song, I am reminded that angels sang, stars shown in celebration of Jesus’ birth. We also know from the story that shepherds stopped their watches to come worship Him. Wise men traveled from afar to worship Him. During this busy time, I hope I remember to stop and WORSHIP Him.

Forget the lights, presents, wrapping, baking, and parties. Christ’s presence may go unnoticed by many this time of year, but you and I — along with heaven, a few shepherds, three wise men, and others who have made room in their hearts — can experience all the glorious wonder that only He brings. If we make the time and room for Jesus, I know He will show up.

So, I invite you to take a breath, and joyfully make room for Christ to come. Anticipate His arrival and experience Christmas like never before! For His coming changes our lives and our world. **A Baby Changes EVERTHING!!**