

Advent, Day 7
Read Psalm 25:1-10

Saturday, December 8

“Show me your ways, O Lord. Teach me your paths...” Psalm 25:4

WHICH WAY?

“Turn left in...point 4 miles...”

The calm female voice with a slightly British accent spoke confidently from the console in the middle of the dashboard. A highlighted route flashed on the map display, showing us exactly where we needed to go. Garmen was making sure that we stuck to the best route and was making sure we had no reason for hesitation.

It’s a handy tool. Most of the time it is right on target. Now, when you get to some places away from the beaten track, it may become slightly confused. I have also heard of instances where the machine was unaware of construction or re-marked roads and have left those who are following its directions high and dry, going the wrong way on a one-way street, or at a dead end. I even heard about one who barely stopped before driving their car down a boat-ramp which was mistakenly labeled as a through street. The undiscerning driver who blindly trusts the machine might find themselves in real trouble.

You have to wonder if Mary and Joseph had a map to follow. Probably the way to Bethlehem was so well-known that their feet moved along the road without having to think about it. Of course, given the precariousness of Mary’s condition, they might have had to discover a less arduous route than one normally followed.

Truth be told, however, as expectant parents they were embarking on a journey far more dangerous than one from one town to another. There are precious few signposts for that journey. Given the nature of their child and his destiny, even the best advice would likely fall far short of anything sure.

But they went on the journey anyway. They trusted that God would give them the guidance they needed and would help them to be the kind of parents Jesus needed them to be.

Like Sara and Abram before them, they set out in faith, not sure of their final destination, but believing that God’s promises were true and that God would help them find the way.

The map of faith begins with the Word of God. The scripture says that God’s Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

We have to admit, however, that sometimes we are like the proverbial ‘man’ who thinks he knows where he is, or at least will never admit to being lost, and who will never stop to ask directions.

I hope you are not that way. We don’t always know which way we should go. We are not always sure of the direction we should take. We sometimes have questions about our purpose and our goal.

Trust the Atlas that you have in your hands. Go to it often and ask directions. If you listen closely, you might just hear God speaking to you through its pages.

I wonder if God has a British accent?