Keeping Christmas from Becoming Commonplace

INTRO: The saying, "familiarity breeds contempt" was illustrated by the citizens of Nazareth towards their hometown rabbi, Jesus (Matthew 13:54-58). Because they couldn't see beyond the "ordinary," they missed out on all but a few miracles (Mark 6:1-6). What can we do to avoid the same catastrophe with respect to the Biblical Christmas story with which we are so familiar?

I. Remember that this was no ordinary _

The incarnation was God's **greatest** miracle with serious implications for Christ's ministry to us (Hebrews 4:14-16; John 1:18; 2 Samuel 7:16; 1 Corinthians 15:20).

II. Ruminate on the fact that this was no ordinary

• Thinking about how long humanity "pined in sin and error" helps us to better appreciate the event itself. (Matthew 1:1-16; Galatians 4:4-5).

III. Reflect no ordinary _

The incarnation displayed an important attribute for any Christfollower to emulate (Philippians 2:5-8; Col. 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5-6; Ephesians 4:1-3).