WHY PEOPLE OFTEN MISS CHRISTMAS

1. FRENZY (The Inn Keeper)

   Luke 2:4-7 "4 Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. 5 He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, 6 and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. 7 She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—**there was no room for them** to stay in the inn." (GNT)

   Luke 10:40 "But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" (NIV)

2. FAMILIARITY (The Religious Leaders)

   Matthew 2:4-6 "4 He (King Herod) called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"5 "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: 6 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.'" (GNT)

   Ephesians 4:18 "Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him." (NLT)

3. FEAR (King Herod)

   Matthew 2:3 "King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem." (NLT)

   1 Timothy 6:20-21 "20 Oh, Timothy, don't fail to do these things that God entrusted to you. Keep out of foolish arguments with those who boast of their "knowledge" and thus prove their lack of it. 21 Some of these people have missed the most important thing in life—they don't know God. May God's mercy be upon you." (LB)

HOW NOT TO MISS CHRISTMAS

1. STOP FILLING my life with less important things.

   Psalm 39:6 "We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it." (NLT)

   Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world." (NLT)

   Proverbs 10:27 "Reverence for God adds hours to each day; so how can the wicked expect a long, good life?" (LB)

2. LOOK CLOSELY at why Jesus came.

   Matthew 2:8 "Then Herod told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" (NLT)

   Jeremiah 29:13 "If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me." (NLT)

3. LISTEN INTENTIONALLY to the good news of Christmas.

   Luke 2:10-11 "… 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" (NLT)

   John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (NIV)

   John 3:17 "*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save the world though him.*" (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE: For a new life at Christmas ….

1. STOP!

   1 Peter 2:24 "Christ carried our sins in His body on the cross so we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right. And you are healed because of his wounds." (NCV)

2. LOOK!

   Isaiah 45:22 "Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other." (NLT)

3. LISTEN!

   2 Corinthians 6:2 "Hear what God says: "When the time came for me to show you favor, I heard you; when the day arrived for me to save you, I helped you." Listen! This is the hour to receive God's favor; today is the day to be saved!" (GNT)