

**A Christmas Message;
Is There Room For Him in Your Heart?**

Vs 7

Luke 2:1-20

12/24/00

Intro

Candlelight Service – The kid’s choir and drama were incredible! Videos will be available. You can order them at the info table.

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For children the focus of Christmas is the gifts they receive. They can’t go to sleep at night wondering at what they’ll open the next morning.

But as we get older, the focus changes to what we give, hoping that we’ve selected the right things.

But as we become still older, the focus changes to a search for meaning in Christmas. We grow increasingly more bothered at the commercialism, and materialism of it all as well as the way our schedules become increasingly more hectic.

I wonder what meaning Christmas has for those who don’t understand it’s true message?

Illus- C.S. Lewis said, “Christianity has no message for those who do not realize they are sinners.”

Here are lessons from the true story of Christmas.

I. Is There Room For Him Now in Our Hearts?

A. God was coming to man.

- He had been thought to be unapproachable before then.

B. It’s important to see that there was no room for the Lord.

- It’s because they didn’t know who he was. If they had known, things would have been different.
- But we do know who he is and the question is whether there is room for Him now in our lives.

B. We crowd our hearts with the cares and concerns of paying bills and going through the routine of life.

- Busyness dulls the spiritual senses.
- We become “outward” people who cannot respond to the Holy Spirit.

C. The greatest purpose is found in the heart.

- To the point that others would see our lives and recognize the purpose in us and want the same for themselves

II. Whatever Happened to Great News of Great Joy?

Vs 10

A. For many people Christmas is a time of sadness.

Illus – Growing up my family was very poor, so memories are not about gifts, but rather about family.

- That’s part of God’s gift – family. We have a future and a hope because we have been adopted into His family. He gave us Himself.

Illus- Pastor cliff Stewart gave him parents a microwave and they couldn’t get it to work. “we don’t need more instructions,” they said, “we just need our son to come along with the gift.”

B. What is the key to finding joy again?

- Not focusing on self (I didn’t get anything significant, I must not be loved. Or, No one wants to be with me).
- The key is becoming like Christ and giving our selves away.

Illus- The homeless shelters are finding that more and more people want to help.

C. The key is in possessing the gift that God gave us in Christ.

- Ever notice when people don’t really like your gift? They’re nice, but you can tell. There’s an art to appearing thankful.
- Don’t do that with God...

Conclusion

The key to having Christmas have its true meaning is to understand God’s heart in the gift of His Son.

**Make room for Him in your heart.
Possess the gift and put it to use.
Give yourself away.**