

**A Christmas Message;
It's Still about Jesus**

Luke 2:1-20

12/21/03

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Today, there is a great effort to try and remove Christmas from our society.

Illus – In one High School in Oregon, some kids were taken aside and corrected for saying “Merry Christmas” in the hallways. The City of Eugene passed an ordinance that no Christian symbols could be displayed on City property.

This is **not** an effort to protect what they assume should be a separation of church and state. That is just an excuse. The effort is to try and remove the influence of Christianity on America.

The reason is because they don't want anyone, **including God, or especially God,** interfering with their plans.

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

- We can add to that, “**Christmas has no message for those who do not realize they are sinners.**”

Christmas is still about Jesus. Here are some truths we need to consider.

I. Is There Room in Your Heart for Jesus?

A. God was coming to man.

- He had been thought to be unapproachable before then.
- God was coming to man, He reached out to us first.

Matthew 1:23, “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, "God with us."

B. But there was no room for the Lord.

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- 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.

C. Our hearts are crowded with the concerns of life.

- Busyness dulls the spiritual senses.
- We become “outward” people who cannot respond to the Holy Spirit.
- We become calloused with wounds, hurts, and pain.
- Consider the parable of Jesus: the sower.

Mark 4:18-19, “And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, and the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

II. Jesus is the gift. Have you opened it?

A. The gift of life is often left unopened.

- Some people simply don't want what God is offering.

Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

- He doesn't force the door open

B. To not open the gift, is to walk in darkness

- This is to **place hope in the false promises of darkness**

John 12:35, “he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.”

John 12:46, “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

C. Receive the gift that God gave you 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...
- **“Everything that's behind the name of Jesus,” that is part of the gift.**

III. What Gift Can We Give to Him?

A. The wise men came bearing gifts

- This is the proper response.
- The wise men came with gifts of significance...

Matthew 2:11, “After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

- **Each gift recognized who He was:**
 - **Gold**; for a king
 - **Frankincense**; and expensive element of the priest's incense.
 - **Myrrh**; gathered from the cuts of a Terebinth tree, used in anointing oil, mixed with wine was offered to Jesus on the cross (but refused), was used in anointing His body after death.

B. Give Him a changed life

- That was the reason He came.

Illus – the Gerasene demoniac is a great example of a changed life.

Mark 5:19-20, He said to him, " Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."

C. Give Him your heart

- What better gift can be given?
- Everything else is second to the most important gift of all.

Conclusion

Give God Your Heart. A gift given without the heart is not much of a gift. Many give God some of their action, their deeds, but what God desires most is to have the very affection of our hearts.