

# So Do We This Christmas

Well, it's been almost a year since last Christmas, and there is still time for it to be the best ever. There are a few days and a few opportunities to reach out to people, and to make priority changes which can affect eternity. As we approach the manger, let us see how the ones who did it the first time did it.

Mary was a young woman of about 14. She had been through some traumatic and joyful experiences before Jesus was born, and it wasn't about to stop. So do we.

She had people telling rumors about her upcoming pregnancy, and her husband almost decided to divorce her. So do we. But the same angel who had appeared to her appeared to Joseph, and things got better.

And if we can't connect with her yet, we must remember her response when the angel came to her and told her that she would have a child named Jesus who would save his people from their sins. "Let it be to me as you have said."

Some can get so wishy washy when God speaks to us. "Maybe, Lord. I'll do it later. Not sure if that is you." Or even, "I don't hear a thing." So do we.

As God speaks to you this Christmas, and believe me He will, we would do well to welcome his voice, and embrace the holiness and faith he brings.

Are we one of those who used to be in his church, and due to business or busyness or schedules or things that call us away are not now? Are we part of the majority of people in America who used to, but don't, because of selfish or even reasons we might think are spiritual?

There are no reasons not to come to the manger. And the manger is adored and served by the body of Christ which is the church. Sure we can be a Christian and not be in church, but to make the best use of ourselves, to find strength and perspective and grace, that's where we need to be.

Then there is Joseph. The Bible describes him as a righteous man, who was going to marry Mary. An angel also appeared to him to convince him to go ahead and marry her and become a part of the greatest story ever told. He doubted, calculated, and worried. So do we.

Then there are the shepherds. Smelly, dirty, uneducated. Not kings or important people by the world's standards. But to God, they were the first ones that the angels told about Jesus and the manger. And we must believe that their lives were transformed.

They immediately went to see the new baby, then went to tell everybody about it. Some have the focus to go from solitary shepherding to the center of where people are because the message of Christmas is so important. So do we, we say on the outside, but fail miserably in telling others about Jesus not just at Christmas all year round.

There is nothing greater than a soul who has met Jesus, and no task greater than being the one who told them. Jesus commands us to tell others about him, and this lack of action is something many need to ask him to fix. So do we.

The wise men, or magi, were probably royalty, or close to it. Scientists who studied the stars and followed them to where Jesus was. They were able to step outside of what the world might call them to think or believe to discover that a tiny baby was more important than anything else they could do or think about. They needed to see Jesus as Lord above all. So do we.

And finally, there is Herod the King. A wicked, jealous man. He killed his family to remain in power. He killed thousands of Jewish boys in an attempt to murder Jesus. He schemed with the wise men who came to Herod's palace to find Jesus thinking he might be there, but an angel told them of the plot and they went home another way. He tried to kill Jesus. And so do we.

Some try to kill Jesus by blaspheming his name. Some try to kill Jesus by living as if we were more important than he is. Some try to kill him by going somewhere else during worship times. Some try to kill him even during church by thinking of other things that we might falsely believe might be more important to us. So do we.

Some try to kill Jesus by giving him lip service, and then our family misses heaven because they never met Him. Some try to kill Jesus by passing laws which restrict Christmas. Some try to kill Jesus by saying we never knew him or he does not exist. So do we.

So this Christmas, let God say that he saw us come to the manger and walk with his Son forever. Billions do. Let God be able to say, "So do you."