

12/03/23 Message

Part of While You Were Sleeping
December 2, 2023

Message: Near Miss

Series: While You Were Sleeping

This is our first message in the series While You Were Sleeping. In this series you're challenged to not miss Christmas. We're not talking about the celebration or the superficial excitement of the season. Instead, we're talking about the real reason for Christmas and the gifts Jesus gives us! Don't miss it!

Who Almost Missed Christmas

- The SHEPHERDS almost missed Christmas

Luke 2:8-11 (NLT)

8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.

9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 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!

- They almost missed the gift of great JOY

The Greek word is chara and it's tied to a relationship with Jesus:

1 Peter 1:8 (NLT)

You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

If you're struggling with the emotions of the holidays and the party poopers of life that work for Satan with a goal to steal, kill, and destroy - replace that junk with joy!

Refocus your energies - your time, talents, and treasures into building a relationship with Jesus that's so strong, you stop focusing on changing others - and you focus on changing you! That's when you find the joy He has for your life!

—Pastor Chad

- The WISE MEN almost missed Christmas

Matthew 2:1-3 (NLT)

1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,

2 “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

3 King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.

It's likely the trip took quite some time (2 years) but these magi were committed to finding Jesus.

- They almost missed the gift of WORSHIP

The Greek word proskyneō is positional (bowing or kneeling) and relational (kissing the hand of Jesus).

The Connection

The shepherds and the wise men make a great connection between joy and worship for us. The cool part of this story is they didn't miss it! The sad part of this story is - we do! We miss it! Not just at Christmas, but throughout the year!

—Pastor Chad

There are many ways to miss Christmas: ignorant preoccupation, ritual, idolatry, over-familiarity... But behind all those reasons is unbelief. Many people simply refuse to believe in Jesus Christ. If you've been missing the reality of Christmas in your life, if you receive Jesus and believe in Him, so much you let Him change your life,

*and you follow Him from this day on... Christmas will
become real to you.*

—John MacArthur

Don't miss Christmas!