

# Making Christmas Better



Christmas is **The Season of Hope** ⇒ [Luke 2:8-14](#):

“8 And there were **shepherds** living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks **at night**. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid**. I bring you **good news that will cause great joy for all the people**. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

This was a time of **GREAT JOY**. The angels came to a group of lowly shepherds, announcing the Birth of our Lord:

- ♥ “...Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news of great joy** that will be **for all the people**. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you...” NIV
- ♥ “...Don’t be afraid. I’m here to announce **a great and joyful event** that is **meant for everybody, worldwide**: A Savior has just been born...” The Message
- ♥ “...Don’t be afraid...I bring you **the most joyful news ever announced**, and **it is for everyone**. The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born tonight...” TLB

Christmas is a time of joy and celebration **for everyone!** But for many it is not. For some, Christmas is a time of:

- **Dread** - Work to do, money to spend, family to endure,
- **Debt** – Spending money we don’t have,
- **Depression** - Over the work to do, the money we lose, and painful memories it triggers,
- **Despair** – Christmas can be the loneliest time of the year,
- **Disappointment** – Never quite living up to the hype.
- **Distraction** – Life taking over and so we come into Christmas distracted and unfocused.

So how can we **Make Christmas Better?** ⇒ [Matthew 2:1-12](#):

“1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

# Making Christmas Better:

## 1. Come Seeking Jesus

v.1-2 ⇒ There's a powerful principle in Matthew 7:7,8: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find...For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds..." If our focus is on the "other things" at Christmas, we'll find them and be disappointed. But if we focus on seeking Jesus, we will find Him and be satisfied!

You **Make Christmas Better** when Christmas is about passionately seeking Jesus in all that you do. Christmas can either be a time of distraction from seeking the Lord, or a time of delight in seeking Him.

## 2. Make The CHOICE to REJOICE

v.9,10 ⇒ When the Wise Men came seeking Jesus they found Him ⇒ "And when they saw the star, they were so ecstatic that they shouted and celebrated with unrestrained joy." (TPT)

You **Make Christmas Better** when you rejoice! Nehemiah 8:10 says that the joy of the Lord is our strength! **No Joy = No Strength! Make The CHOICE To REJOICE:**

- The Book Of Philippians > 12 TIMES – Joy and Rejoicing – In Only 4 Chapters ⇒ Philippians 3:1; Philippians 4:4
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- 1 Samuel 30:6

## 3. Worship Him

v.11 ⇒ *Christmas Is Primarily A Time To Worship:*

- 👉 Mary Before The Birth - Luke 1,
- 👉 Zechariah Before The Birth in Luke 1,
- 👉 Angels During The Birth in Luke 2,
- 👉 Shepherds During The Birth In Luke 2,
- 👉 Wise Men During The Birth In Matt.2
- 👉 Simeon After The Birth in Luke 2,
- 👉 Anna the Prophetess After The Birth in Luke 2,

**Make Christmas Better** by worshipping Jesus...spending lots of time simply loving and worshipping Him! Be more "Mary" than "Martha" ⇒ Luke 10:38-42; John 15:1-16; Mark 3:13-15

## 4. Open Your Treasures

v.11 ⇒ Christmas is a time to **open our treasures**; to examine ourselves before Him and make sure our hearts are right before Him! We **Make Christmas Better** by **opening up our treasures!**

## 5. Change

v.10-12 ⇒ The Wise Men CHANGED after they saw Jesus! After they saw Him and **opened up their treasures** to Him, they went home **by another route!** **Make Christmas Better** by making a change at Christmas! Christmas is about change.