

# HOW **NOT** TO MISS THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS!

## CAROLS: Part 2

December 8, 2019 | Pastor Brian

*"All these God-signs he had given them and they still didn't get it..."  
(John 12:37, MSG)*

### How to Miss a Miracle

#### 1. LET THE HOLIDAY STRESS TURN YOU INTO A **MESS**.

*"My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42, NLT)*

#### Antidote: **REFOCUS**

*"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place...Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace." (Matthew 6:6, MSG)*

*"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!" (Isaiah 26:3, NLT)*

#### 2. LET A RELATIONAL FIGHT STEAL YOUR **LIGHT**.

*"Don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights." (2 Timothy 2:23, NLT)*

#### Antidote: **RESTORE**

*"...If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God." (Matthew 5:23-24, MSG)*

*"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18, NIV)*

*"Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32, NLT)*

#### 3. LET THE PAIN OF THE PAST CONTINUE TO **LAST**.

*"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed." (Psalm 34:18, NLT)*

Antidote: RELEASE

*“Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.” (1 Peter 5:7, The Living Bible)*

*“Give your burdens to the Lord. He will carry them.” (Psalm 55:22a, TLB)*

4. LET YOUR HARDENED HEART KEEP YOU APART.

*“for they still didn’t understand the significance of the miracle of the loaves. Their hearts were too hard to take it in.” (Mark 6:52, NLT)*

Antidote: REPENT

*“The LORD says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.” (Joel 2:12–13, NLT)*

**ACTION STEP:**

**INVITE SOMEONE TO OUR CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**