

WHAT'S BLOCKING YOUR VIEW TO THE MANGER?

🕯 Christmas Candlelight Services 🕯

December 21-24, 2025

Pastor Brian

Luke 2:8–20 (NKJV)

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and **SEE** this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷ Now when they had **SEEN Him**, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds... ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and **SEEN**, as it was told them.

What Gets in the Way of Seeing Jesus

1. PRESENTS, PARTIES & PLACES!

"The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity." (Luke 8:14, NLT)

2. PEOPLE.

"Don't you think I have enough crazy people to put up with as it is without adding another..." (1 Samuel 21:15, MSG)

3. PRESSURE.

"The pressure never let up; all the juices of my life dried up." (Psalm 32:4, MSG)

4. **PROBLEMS**.

*"My **problems** go from bad to worse. Oh [Lord], save me from them all!" (Psalm 25:17, NLT)*

5. **PAIN**.

*"My **pain** and sorrow are continually before me." (Psalm 38:17b, AMP)*

How to **SEE** the Savior

1. **SET ASIDE** the distractions.

*"...I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with **as few distractions as possible**." (1 Corinthians 7:35, NLT)*

2. **EMPTY YOURSELF** before the Lord.

*"Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must **give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me**. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? **Is anything worth more than your soul?**" (Matthew 16:24–26, NLT)*

3. **EMBRACE THE GIFT** only He can give.

*And we know that the Son of God came so we could recognize and understand the truth of God—**WHAT A GIFT!**—and we are living in the Truth itself, in **God's Son, Jesus Christ**. This Jesus is both True God and Real Life. 1 Jn 5:20 (The Message)*

ACTION STEPS

Salvation: "I PRAYED!"

Baptism: After every service!

Reading Plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/53527-12-days-of-christmas>

My Prayer for 2026: _____