



A Commercial Christmas | THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:8-20

What do I want for Christmas? → [White Elephants Tweets](#) → [Funny Christmas Kid Lists](#) → Lk. 2:8-20

→ Summary: *What do you want for Christmas? It is a question we get used to hearing and asking if we want Christmas to “check off all the boxes.” But if our Christmas is limited to “checking off all the boxes,” we may be missing out on the greatest gift of Christmas of all. Giving and receiving gifts is a wonderful tradition rooted in the Truth of the Gospel. But to get past all the wrapping paper, we must ask a better question, “What gift does God want for Christmas?”*

→ **What does God want for Christmas?** → A commercial Christmas turns into a Christian Christmas...with THAT question.

Luke 2:8-20: *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! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”*

13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. 17 After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. 18 All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, 19 but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. 20 The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

The GOSPEL is God’s gift we must HEAR. → “The Write Brothers” - Missing the Big News.

- What is good news? Gospel (εὐαγγελίζομαι / εὐαγγελίζω) = Instead of us going UP to the Mountain...God has come down TO US. → “...on the mountain!” → Who has come down to us? Read vs. 11...
- PAUSE this Christmas and consider WHY the birth of Jesus was so important:
 - SAVIOR = Saved from our sins. (Mt. 1:21) → “wrapped snugly in strips of cloth” - v. 12
 - MESSIAH = The promised and “anointed” deliverer, from the line of David, to set up God’s Kingdom. (Jn. 1:41)
 - LORD = Denotes His royal authority, power, & control. (Jn. 20:28)
 - **Romans 10:14** → **We must HEAR the Gospel in order to believe in the Gospel. It must be spoken.**
- VISION: MESA = Flat-topped Mountain WHERE THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED! Only Jesus can save!!
- Prayer: Lord, we HEAR the Good news. We RECEIVE Jesus...as Savior, Messiah, & Lord of our lives.

→ TRANSITION: God wants us to HEAR the Gospel. That is a gift He desires.

The Gospel produces great JOY.→Many of us pursue happiness/joy...and hope it ends up well.

- Joy in Scripture is connected to Salvation.→Psalm 51:12→My (spiritual) circumstances determine my JOY.→**Huh?!**
- APPLICATION: Has Jesus forgiven me? Is my heart devoted to Jesus/His Kingdom? Is Jesus Lord of my life?
 - Joy is NOT determined by my relational status.→That changes.
 - Joy is NOT determined by how many likes/views i have on IG/Tik Tok.→That changes.
 - Joy is NOT determined by how much i have stocked away for retirement.→That changes.
 - Joy is NOT determined by how many presents are underneath my Christmas tree.→That changes.
 - Joy is NOT determined by my job satisfaction rate at my job.→That changes.
 - BOOK OF HOPE INTERNSHIP - My joy is determined by my relationship with Jesus!
 - Joy IS determined by my relationship with Jesus...and if it is mine and i am His...MY JOY IS COMPLETE!!!

→TRANSITION: God wants us to have the kind of joy that comes from the Gospel. That is a gift He desires. Finally...

We share His gift with ALL people.→“Go Tell it on the Mountain”→Black Music Scholar Quote on “Negro Spirituals”

- John Wesley Work Jr.: →Taught Latin/History @ Fisk U.→1st African-American collector of folk songs/spirituals, choral director, educationalist, & songwriter→New Jubilee Songs as Sung by the Fisk Jubilee Singers (1901)→New Jubilee Songs and Folk Songs of the American Negro.
- 17: “The Shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child.”
- The Shepherds knew of the costly consequence of slavery to sin...bc they raised the lambs that would be slaughtered. Now...God had come in the flesh...and would give Himself up to bring FREEDOM to the OPPRESSED.
- **Friends...how can we keep freedom to ourselves?→We must share the Gospel with others.**
 - Pray and ask God for ten names→VISION: Top Ten List (Download Below)
 - Share your life with those people.
 - Share your story of Jesus with those people.
 - Share your church with those people.→VISION: Christmas Eve Service.
- Circuit Riders Video→Interview
- VISION: Lovelift. Christmas Eve Service.→Prayer: Lord, lead us to YOUR way.

→TRANSITION: God wants us to share His gift with others. The greatest gift we can give to God...is to share His gift.

→**God wants us receive His gift!**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What was the best Christmas present I ever received / gave? Why / why not?
2. What gift does God want us to “hear” this Christmas? Why must we “hear” this gift to receive it?
3. What spiritual circumstances contribute to my joy? Why do these circumstances NOT change?
4. Do I currently have a “Top Ten” list? DO i regularly pray for, share my life & church with others? Why / why not?
5. **PRAYER:** “Father, help me to receive the gift you desire to give this Christmas and to share Him with others!”

QUOTES / SONGS:

Missing the Big News

It was in December of 1903, that after many attempts, the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, were successful in getting their “flying machine” off the ground and into the air at Kitty Hawk. Thrilled over the accomplishment, they telegraphed this message to their sister Katherine: “We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas.” Katherine hurried to the editor of the local newspaper and showed him the message. He glanced at it and said, “How nice. The boys will be home for Christmas.” He totally missed the big news-for the first time in human history, man had flown! (SOURCE: Daily Bread, December 23, 1991.)

Definition of Gospel: “In the NT it always refers to the death, burial, resurrection, and witness about Jesus Christ, including its implications for humankind’s relationship to God.” - **Bill Mounce, Greek Scholar**

*“Born of slavery, the negro spiritual symbolized the hardships of African-Americans and their forced servitude, as well an expression of Christian religious values shaped by their experiences. This style departed from hymns, which were introduced to slaves by the Europeans. However, it is important to mention that spirituals are not hymns. The cultural memory of African-Americans was central in the longevity of negro spirituals, catering to the needs of disenfranchised people, that even though this period of hatred and turmoil, they were not defeated or destroyed. In this way, the spiritual represented freedom, and the will for slaves to express themselves and how they felt living in a land far far away.” - **Black Music Scholar***

Go Tell it on the Mountain, Adapted by John W. Work Jr.

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev’rywhere;*

*go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

*1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

*2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]*

*3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]*

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **Gospel in Greek:** “εὐαγγελίζομαι / εὐαγγελίζω” <https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/euangelizo>
- **Song History:** “Go Tell it on the Mountain” <https://gaither.com/go-tell-it-on-the-mountain-the-story-behind-the-song/>
- **Song History 2:** “Go Tell it on the Mountain” <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-go-tell-it-on-the-mountain-1>
- **Website:** “Black Music Scholar”: <https://blackmusicscholar.com/the-importance-of-negro-spirituals/>
- **Website:** “John Wesley Work Jr.”: <https://www.workoutyourfaith.com/timeline/john-wesley-work-jr>
- **TOOL:** Top Ten List: <https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/C4amc4P2CxZHmnK1AXmm9RWf>
- **Website:** <https://circuitriders.com>



SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Matthew 1:21

21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

John 1:41

41 Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”).

John 20:28

28 “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

Romans 10:14-15

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

Psalms 51:12

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

MESA CHRISTMAS LINKS:



- Youtube SHAREABLE Christmas Invite: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcTiNu66cTQ&t=33s>
- Christmas Season Details? Click: <https://mesa.church/christmas>

MESA VISION LINKS:

- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

NEXTS STEPS:

- [Fill Out an Online Connect Card](#)
- [Join a Small Group](#)
- [Get Water Baptized](#)
- [Become a Partner of Mesa Church](#)
- [Join a Dream Team to Serve on Sundays](#)
- [Give BACK](#)
- [Submit a Prayer Request](#)
- [Learn More About Fasting](#)
- [Share a testimony or story of God working in my life.](#)

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- GOOGLE PLAY: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.subsplashconsulting.s_K2XMCR&referrer=utm_source%3Dsubsplash%26utm_content%3DeyJoYW5kbGVyljoiYXBwliwiYXBwa2V5ljoisZjYTUNSIIn0=