

Responding To Christmas

Luke 2:8-16 & Matthew 2:1-12

When we Hear about SHEPHERDS & the WISE MEN Coming to the manger, scenes of Love, Joy, & Worship come to mind.

But when we think of KING HEROD we See Darkness, Hatred & Death.

We can Learn Something about OUR Response to Christmas By Comparing what these Scriptures tell us about the Shepherds & the Wise Men & Herod.

Maybe through it all...CHRISTMAS will MEAN even MORE to US.

1. SOME ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE GOD'S MESSAGE.

- Who understood the idea of Sacrifice better than SHEPHERDS?
- The WISE MEN were ALSO Prepared, they had been Waiting & Hoping for THE King.
- Christmas Came to HEROD but He Didn't Know it because he was NOT Prepared.
- Christmas is almost here. Are YOU Prepared?

2. SOME TAKE A JOURNEY OF FAITH TO SEE JESUS.

- The SHEPHERDS say, "Let's GO to Bethlehem & SEE this thing that HAS Happened."
- The WISE MEN followed that Star until it LED them to Jesus.
- When HEROD heard the news, he said, "Wait, What?" "WHERE is this King? I haven't heard of ANY King."
- Before Christmas can Be Real to US, we must, in FAITH, Be Ready to Accept it.

3. SOME PAY THE PRICE & MAKE THE SACRIFICE TO SEE JESUS.

- The SHEPHERDS Left Behind all they HAD & Held Dear to Seek the Lamb of God.
- The WISE MEN Left Behind Families & Businesses to Pay Homage to the NEW King.
- HEROD was Afraid he was going to Lose it all.
- Christmas means SURRENDER...GOD Surrendered His All.
- Christmas is also about GIVING...Giving of OURSELVES to God & to Others.
- WHO best Represents YOU in your Response to Christmas?