



INTRODUCTION

Christmas Portraits—Part 3

The Christmas story is full of wonder—a virgin birth, angelic messengers, and mysterious visitors that travel hundreds of miles to worship a newborn baby. Amidst all of the unusual details of that night, some people simply didn't care. Some even became hostile. The news of Jesus' birth should've brought joy for everyone but, surprisingly, it didn't.

Together, we'll gain insight and learn lessons from the perplexing reactions by some key characters in the Bible's most well-known story. Join us as we explore Christmas Portraits.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When we read the Christmas story, we see different responses to the news of the birth of Christ. Some, like Herod, viewed his birth with animosity. Others, like the religious leaders, were apathetic. And still others, like the shepherds and the Magi viewed the birth with joy. Why do you think there are so many different responses to the birth of Christ?
2. Jesus could have been born under very different circumstances. Can you think of some of the surprisingly humble aspects of the Christmas story? Why do you think God approached the birth of Christ in this way?
3. Read Luke 2:8-20. What observations or applications can you draw from these verses?
4. What is the significance of the message the angels gave the shepherds?
5. As Christians, how do you think we can make the Christmas season more joyful and memorable, especially under the current circumstances?

APPLICATION

How do we receive forgiveness of sins? How can we be sure we are saved? There is only one requirement found throughout the pages of the Bible—the requirement is faith. We need to place our trust in Jesus who died in our place and rose again. God knew we couldn't save ourselves, so he sent a Savior to deliver from our sins.

Despite any difficulties we may face, we have a reason to celebrate what Jesus did for us and place trust in Him. We have to humbly acknowledge our sins and inability to save ourselves, because Jesus will come to those who humbly see their need and place their faith in Him. Jesus said "Come to me all who are weak and burdened, and I will give your rest."

KEY VERSES (HCSB)

Luke 2:8-20
James 2:5
1 Corinthians 1:26-29, 31
Matthew 1:21
Romans 5:8