

How To Have a *Real* Christmas

REVIEW

The True Christmas Account

- The **Virgin** – “Nothing is impossible” (*Luke 1*)
- The **Scandal** – “Put her away” (*Matt 1*)
- The **Census** – Travel to Bethlehem (*Luke 2*)
- The **Birth** – “Brought forth a Son” (*Matt 1*)
- The **Announcement** – Shepherds (*Luke 2*)
- The **Visitors** – Magi (*Matt 2*)
- The **Flight & Murder** – Herod (*Matt 2*)

RECOGNIZE

God's Plan In Christmas

Not THE event, but one part of God's entire plan

- The **Sin-Problem** – Garden – Adam & Eve
- The **Solution** – He Will Save His People From Their Sins
 - **Prophecy** – God's fore-telling – all through OT
 - **Genealogy** – God's control
- The **Step-Down** (Phil 2) – God With Us – DRASTIC!

GIVE

The Gift That Lasts Forever

GOD'S GIFT:

- Was *not* something **money** could **buy!**
- Was *not* what people **wanted**, but what people **needed!**
- **Satisfies** – **Things** will NEVER **satisfy**

FOCUS ON
Who is Received,
Not *What Is Received*

- Wise men, up to 300? Prestigious. High up. Traveled 1500 miles!
- Why? To honor the king of the Jews, not to exchange gifts with each other!
- Their emphasis was the greatness of Who had arrived, not what had arrived

FOCUS ON
Who is Received,
Not *What Is Received*

- Gifts given after birth, not at the birth.
- Gifts were given because of His Lordship and presence, not to honor His birthday with presents.
- Gifts given not to each other, but to Jesus in recognition of Who He was – the LORD – God with us!

EXPECT OPPOSITION

When You Honor the True Jesus

- God's efforts were met with selfishness, hatred and murder

Honoring the true Jesus:

- Puts you at odds with the world
- Brings rejection from the world
 - Political
 - Religious
 - General Population
- Has always brought active opposition

Summary

- Saturate yourself with the *entire* Christmas story
- Understand God's plan
- Share the only real gift that makes a difference forever
- Renew your commitment to Jesus as **LORD**
- Be willing to stand for the Lord, and suffer for His sake