

Matthew 2:3; 13—“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him...13 an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

These people are (15) \_\_\_\_\_ by Christmas .

If Christmas is real, there is (16) \_\_\_\_\_ for the “anti-God” living of these people.

Romans 1:18-23a—“ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man...”

**Person #5: The** (17) \_\_\_\_\_ :

**REPRESENTING:** Those that are (18) \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s blessings.

Luke 2:8-15—“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.”

Outside of Jesus coming at Christmas there may have (19) \_\_\_\_\_ been “good news” for these outcasts.

John 10:10—“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”



Today’s message will be available online at [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org), both to view as an archived message and to download from a podcast. To purchase today’s message on CD for \$5 or on DVD for \$10, please stop by the First Family Inspiration Book and Gift Store located in the Grand Foyer.

Answers: 1-Mary 2-hopeful 3-plan 4-know 5-Joseph 6-obedient 7-worried 8-easy 9-Wise Men 10-skeptical 11-something more 12-dangerously 13-Herod 14-opposed 15-threatened 16-accountability 17-Shepherds 18-desperate 19-never

**First Family Church 7700 W. 143rd St, Overland Park, KS 66223 913-681-3341 [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org)**



**“Why I Believe In Santa Claus: The Spirit of Christmas Lives On!”**  
Sunday Evening, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Message #3: “Behind the Scenes at Christmas – How God Moves in the Life of His People”**

James 1:27/Acts 4:33-37

Pastor Christian Newsome

**Santa Facts:**

- Early 1900’s Santa found the cover of Norman Rockwell’s “Saturday Evening Post”.
- 1924 Macy’s Department Store in New York City claimed Santa Claus as their own.
- 1931 Coca-Cola Company claimed Santa Claus as their own.
- 1937 The first “school” for Department store Santas opened in Albion, N.Y.
- 1939 Montgomery Ward Promotion added “Rudolf the Rednose Reindeer” to Christmas.
- The expansive and expensive “American Fur Trade” pictured Santa in red fur, head to toe.
- During the 1860’s, when our Current Santa Claus was first drawn, Americans were fascinated with reaching and exploring the North Pole – an area that became the legendary home of the famed Santa Claus.
- Industrial Revolution newspaper cartoons showed Santa’s workshop producing scores of toys with the new power of “industry”.

**REVIEW:**

- The real SPIRIT of Christmas.
- The real GIFTS of Christmas.

**Key Verses of our Christmas Series:**

James 1:27—“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Acts 4:33-37—“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, <sup>35</sup> and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. <sup>36</sup> And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”

“Behind the Scenes at Christmas – How God Moves in the Life of People”

**Person #1:** (1) \_\_\_\_\_ :

**REPRESENTING:** Those that are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s blessings.

Luke 1:26-38—“ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

35 And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible.”

38 Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.”

Mary’s response to God’s blessings tell us that she was very knowledgeable of God’s

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ for her life.

Luke 1:46-55—“And Mary said:

“ My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me,

And holy is His name.

50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him

From generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with His arm;

He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones,

And exalted the lowly.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things,

And the rich He has sent away empty.

54 He has helped His servant Israel,

In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers,

To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

When we (4) \_\_\_\_\_ God’s word we are always hopeful of his plans for us!

Romans 8:28—“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

**Person #2:** (5) \_\_\_\_\_:

**REPRESENTING:** Those that are (6) \_\_\_\_\_, yet

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ by God’s blessings.

Matthew 1:18-25—“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example,

was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.”

Joseph shows us that it will not always be (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to be in God’s perfect will for our life.

Luke 2:1-7—“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

**Person #3: The** (9) \_\_\_\_\_:

**REPRESENTING:** Those that are (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s blessings.

The wise men were not looking for Jesus, but by looking for

(11) \_\_\_\_\_, they found Jesus!

Matthew 2:1-2—“ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

The wise men would have skeptically and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ investigated Jesus except that they had a true “spiritual” encounter.

Matthew 2:7-12—“ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.”

**Person #4:** (13) \_\_\_\_\_:

**REPRESENTING:** Those that are (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s blessings.