

## Embracing Christmas

December 21, 2025

Luke 2

No. 3

Are you loving the Christmas season? If so, it's because you are growing in your understanding of it and you are making yourself available to it. And I hope that is true for all of you. Today we move on to the next level, "Embracing Christmas."



Embracing Christmas is more than just participating in the Christmas traditions.

- Decorating trees
- Hanging lights
- Wrapping gifts
- Etc.

It means to receive the message of Christmas and also to receive the miracle of Christmas, Immanuel, God With Us. As a matter of fact, we don't even need decorated trees, hanging lights and wrapped gifts to embrace Christmas, we only need an open heart.

Perhaps this past year has closed your heart a bit.

Seeds of sadness were sown there.

Raindrops of regret fell upon you.

Or the dew of despondency quenched your fire And your heart began to close.

Open it up and let Christmas in by embracing its message and miracle, God is with us!

He is with us because He stepped right into our world in the form of a baby, grew up into a strong, young man and offered Himself on our behalf for our transgressions.

That's the message we embrace.

When you embrace Christmas, it chases away fear.

I want to give you three ways to embrace Christmas:

## **1. Embrace the message**

Let's take a look at this scene:

**Lu 2:8** *In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.*

**v.9** *And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*

**v.10** *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;*

**v.11** *for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

**v.9** made them afraid

*And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*

But,

The first words they heard were words of joy.

**v.10** *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;*

And notice the recipients of this message, simple shepherds. Now,

Many sheep were used in the worship of Jehovah. A lamb was offered every morning and evening in the Temple and these lambs had to be special lambs, without spot or blemish.

Because these shepherds were so close to Bethlehem, about five miles, these shepherds could have been the ones who pastured the Temple sheep for the morning and evening offerings.

And now they have the privilege of seeing the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world!

Did they embrace the message? Indeed they did.

**v.15** *When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."*

**v.16** *So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.*

The next way to embrace Christmas:

## **2. Embrace the miracle**

Can you look beyond the lights in your neighbor's yard and see the stable?

Can you look beyond the blow up Santa across the street and see the Savior?

Can you trade your possible loneliness and receive God's love, for that is Christmas. And He revealed it with a miracle!

**v.11** The message of the angel  
*for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

This was God's miracle worked on our behalf.

A virgin conceived in her womb. She was untouched by any man but found favor with God and was touched by His Holy Spirit.

A miracle of miracles, seasoned with love for us all.

This is the miracle worth embracing.

Sometimes Christians find themselves chasing after personal miracles for themselves, but this one was for the whole world.

I Jn 2:2 *He Himself is the propitiation (offering of Himself that was pleasing to God), for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

So,

To embrace Christmas we:

1. Embrace the message
2. Embrace the miracle

Thirdly;

**3. Embrace the call to share Him**

Look at what the shepherds did:

**v.20** *The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.*

You see,

When you truly embrace the message and miracle of Christmas, you cannot keep it to yourself.

Did they return to their flocks or seek out people? We do not know for sure, but we do know they were not quiet about what they ha witnessed.

And,

When we embrace the call to share, we can give a kind word to the lonely, a meal for the hungry, even a prayer for the hurting.

In closing;

**The message:**

A Savior is born, Immanuel, God is with us.

**The miracle:**

But God to be a child, that is the miracle of miracles. The great God to be a little babe;

the Ancient of Days to become an infant;

the King of eternity to be two or three months old,

the Almighty Jehovah to be a weak man;

God immeasurably great, whom heaven and earth cannot contain, to be a babe;

He that rules the stars to be weaned in a manger;

the founder of the heavens rocked in a cradle;—it is a most incredible thing, the blessed 'mystery' of godliness.

The earth wondered, at Christ's birth, to see a new star in heaven; but heaven might rather wonder to see a new Son on earth.—

Notice the contrasts:

Glory and shame,

the highest heavens and the lowly manger,  
angels and shepherds, how much in keeping with the birth  
of the God-man, God emptying Himself to become man!  
We sing a song in which angels and redeemed men shall  
unite to praise the Babe of Bethlehem, to sing the eternal  
*Glory to God in the highest.*