

SOMETHING HAPPENED

Luke 2:8-20

Introduction: This time of the year we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It was and should continue to be a Holy Season. Have we cheapened it by too much commerce or desecrated it by selfishness? What will we gain from how we have changed its real meaning? What about the real story of Christmas?

I. SOMETHING HAPPENED

1. Something of so great significance that there was an announcement by a messenger sent from Heaven and a song by a Heavenly choir to interpret the miraculous manifestation of the unusual star.
2. Something happened that marked a point in history and affected the destiny of mankind.
3. Something happened that was God's breaking forth into the actual life-stream of humanity in order to save people from their sins.
4. Something happened which declared that God is with us.
5. Since that something happened, the world has never been the same.

II. WHAT DOES THAT "SOMETHING" MEAN?

1. The birth of Jesus brought God to man in order that man might see God as a living person, as perfect love and righteousness, as a faithful friend.
2. It meant that God's love reaches to the point of willingness to be involved in the sins and sorrows and conflicts and sufferings of humanity.
3. It meant that God poured the energies of His eternal righteousness and truth and love and kingship into the redemption of the human race.
4. Let us become aware of God, revealed in Jesus Christ.
 - Let us respond to Him with faith and love.
 - Let us see ourselves in the light of His gracious purpose for us.
 - Let us strive to live, in unbroken fellowship with Him through the Spirit.
 - Let us give our utmost to make known His salvation to all the peoples of the earth.
5. Jesus Christ is with us through His Spirit to redeem and save us.
 - Christ is with us to resist evil and overcome difficulties.
 - Christ is with us to provide grace for affliction and whatever life holds.
 - Christ is with us to empower us and guide us in the Christian mission.
 - Christ is with us and He rightly deserves our adoration and our devotion. He wants supremely our love and our trust.

III. WHAT ARE WE TO DO ABOUT THIS GREAT EVENT?

1. Jesus Christ is the world's savior. There is the greatest danger that this wonderful truth will become too familiar to people, for we will begin to take it for granted, and then it will seem commonplace.
2. We may become so preoccupied with personal concern, intoxicated by our love of pleasure, that we become dull of hearing the good news.

3. We need a new awareness and fresh conviction that -
 - Christ is the world's salvation
 - There is no other Savior
 - There is no other way to eternal salvation.
 - Through Jesus Christ those who have sunk deepest into the mire of sin may be lifted up and made new persons.
 - People living in the tormenting fear of superstitions and in immorality and idolatry can find salvation through Jesus Christ.
 - We can find deliverance from all fear and guilt.
 - We can find the key to the meaning of life in this world.
 - We can find strength for moral achievement.
 - We can find the sure way of acceptance by the true God.
 - All who yearn for a world of righteousness and peace and for assurance of life after death and fulfillment in eternity will find it in Jesus Christ, the all sufficient Savior.

CONCLUSION:

1. *Luke 2:11*
2. Christ was born.
3. The Incarnation is fact.
4. Christ is living this very moment.
5. The resurrection is fact.
6. Jesus is Lord and Savior.
7. Our hope forever is Jesus Christ!