

What the Angels Said About Jesus

Message 4 of 6 in the series: "Hidden Gems: Things You've Never Noticed About Christmas"

A. When angels announced Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, they revealed some powerful spiritual truths about the meaning of Christmas that we don't want to miss.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, '**Do not be afraid. I bring you good news** that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David **a Savior has been born to you**; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and **on earth peace** to those on whom his favor rests.'" Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

1. The angels brought the shepherds (and us) Good News, NOT good advice. The angels did not come offering wise counsel regarding what we need to do to get right with God. They came proclaiming Good News of what God had done to make it possible for sinful people to have right a right relationship with Him. "**When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.** Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation (wrath). For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. **So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.**" Romans 5:6-11 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! Jesus was God's Christmas gift to the whole world. "For **God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (NKJV)

2. "A Savior has been born to you" is Good News for the whole world because the whole world is hopelessly mired in sin and deserving of God's wrath (God's holy, justified anger toward sin, disobedience, and stubborn opposition to His purposes and will). "**We are all infected and impure with sin.** When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind." Isaiah 64:6 (NLT) "As the Scriptures say, 'No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.' '**For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.**" Romans 3:10-11 & 23 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! Because God is perfect in righteousness and justice, He must punish sin. "**But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath**, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God 'will repay each person according to what they have done.'" Romans 2:5-6 (NIV)

IMPORTANT! Because God is perfect in love and compassion, He sent Jesus to take our place on the cross and pay the penalty for our sin. "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) "For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**" Romans 6:23 (NLT)

3. Through a personal relationship with Jesus, peace on earth is really possible. "**For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.** The government will rest on his shoulders. And **he will be called:** Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**" Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)
 - We can have peace with God. "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, **we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.**"
Romans 5:1 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! Jesus is the only one who can bring us peace with God. "For, there is one God and **one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.** He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone." 1 Timothy 2:5-6a (NLT)

- We can have peace of mind and heart. “**I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.** And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid... **I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me.** Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 14:27 & 16:33 (NLT)
 - We can bring peace to others. “**Blessed are the peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9 (NIV)
4. If we have a personal relationship with Jesus, we don’t need to be afraid anymore.
- We don’t need to hide from God in fear and shame anymore. “When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ He replied, ‘**I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.**’” Genesis 3:8-10 (NLT) Now we can confidently enter into God’s presence anytime, anywhere and ask for whatever we need. “**Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)
 - We don’t need to fear anyone or anything. “**If God is for us, who can be against us?**”
Romans 8:31b (NLT)

B. After the angels departed, the shepherds went to meet baby Jesus. Then they spread the word everywhere about Jesus’ birth and what the angels said about Him.

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.**” Luke 2:15-18 (NIV)

IMPORTANT! After we’ve met Jesus and surrendered our lives to Him, He will give us the desire and the power to spread the word about Him everywhere, too. “**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**” Acts 1:8 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! The Bible doesn’t say why Jesus chose shepherds to be the first people to hear the Good News of Jesus’ birth, but it does say that God loves to carry out His work through common, ordinary people. “For God, who said, ‘Let there be light in the darkness,’ has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. **We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.**” 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 (NLT)

C. Mary meditated often about Jesus’ birth and all the things the angels said.

“But Mary **treasured up** all these things and **pondered them** in her heart.” Luke 2:19 (NKJV)

IMPORTANT! God will bless us if we follow Mary’s example. “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.” Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)

John Schmidt • 12-21-25 • john@centeringlives.com

Quotations to Consider This Christmas:

“Hark! the herald angels sing,
 ‘Glory to the newborn King:
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!’
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with angelic hosts proclaim,
 ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’” Charles Wesley (1739)

"[Christmas] means not just hope for the world, despite all its unending problems, but hope for you and me, despite all our unending failings." Tim Keller

Great Resource: *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Tim Keller, Penguin Books, 2018