

# Silent Night

Message 4 of 4 in the series: "Something to Sing About"

**"Silent night, holy night. All is calm,** all is bright. 'Round yon virgin, mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; **Christ the Savior is born!** Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night. Son of God, **loves pure light.** Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with **the dawn of redeeming grace;** Jesus Lord, at Thy birth. **Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.**" Joseph Mohr (1818)

## A. On the night Jesus was born, a few miles outside of Bethlehem, angels filled the sky singing.

"Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 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. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.' And **suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'**"

Luke 2:8-14 (NKJV)

## B. In Bethlehem, however, it was silent that night.

1. No one was singing in Bethlehem because registering for a Roman census was a huge hassle.

"At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them." Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)

2. No one was celebrating Jesus' birth because He looked like an ordinary baby.

"He came into the very world he created, but **the world didn't recognize him.**" John 1:10 (NLT)

"There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him."

Isaiah 53:2b (NLT)

*Note:* Jesus was NOT an ordinary baby! He was a holy infant. He never inherited a sinful nature like the rest of us because he was born to Mary while she was a virgin. "Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!' Mary asked the angel, 'But how can this happen? I am a virgin.' The angel replied, '**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy,** and he will be called the Son of God.'" Luke 1:30-35 (NLT)

*Note:* Jesus is the only person who never sinned. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—**yet he did not sin.**" Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

3. No one was celebrating Jesus' birth because nearly everyone was expecting the Messiah to be a mighty warrior who would conquer the Romans, not a baby filled with God's redeeming grace.

"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death... it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. **Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.**" Hebrews 2:14-17 (NLT)

*Note:* "Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to **help us** when we are being tested." Hebrews 2:18 (NLT)

**C. Because we know who Jesus is and all about why He came, we will celebrate His birth this Christmas and not be silent.**

"You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy, that I might sing praises to you and **not be silent**. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!" Psalm 30:11-12 (NLT)

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**Quotations to consider:**

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life." Corrie Ten Boom

"Rejoice, that the immortal God is born, so that mortal man may live in eternity." Assorted Authors

"The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity--hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory--because at the Father's will Jesus became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross." J.I. Packer

"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." Augustine

"Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man - His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God - when we present our bodies a living sacrifice." Vance Havner