

# MESSAGE NOTES

## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



*By reliving the story of  
Jesus' birth, you will  
experience the "good news of  
great joy for all the people"*

Sunday, Dec 24th, 2023 10AM  
"CHRISTMAS EVE" AM

Message Title:

"OVERWHELMING JOY  
CALLS FOR A RESPONSE"

Focus:

"Wisemen's Visit to King Herod,  
The Shepherds & The Angels"

Series: "JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM"



## FILL IN THE BLANKS

### 3 KEY THINGS WE LEARN FROM THE MESSAGE OF OVERWHELMING JOY & GOOD NEWS:

● #1) GOD'S MESSAGE OF OVERWHELMING JOY & GOOD NEWS IS 4 ALL \_\_\_\_\_ LIKE THE MAGI & SHOULD BRING A \_\_\_\_\_ RESPONSE!

#### Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' " 7 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.

●#1) GOD'S MESSAGE OF OVER-  
WHELMING JOY & GOOD NEWS IS 4  
ALL TRUTH SEEKERS LIKE THE MAGI &  
SHOULD BRING A SIMILAR RESPONSE!



# "Wisemen's Visit to King Herod"





**● #2) THE HUMBLE & WISE WILL  
" \_\_\_\_\_ " & " \_\_\_\_\_ " THE \_\_\_\_\_  
OF OVERWHELMING JOY & GOOD  
NEWS OF CHRISTMAS FAVOR & GRACE!**

**James 4:6 NLT**

And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

**James 4:10 NLT**

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor."

**Philippians 2:3 NIV**

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves"

**Luke 2:8-9;15-19 NIV**

**8** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

**15** 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." **16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.**

**● #2) THE HUMBLE & WISE WILL  
"PONDER" & "TREASURE" THE WORDS  
OF OVERWHELMING JOY & GOOD  
NEWS OF CHRISTMAS FAVOR & GRACE!**



# "The Shepherds & The Angels"





● #3) GOOD NEWS & OVERWHELMING JOY IS FOR \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT SHOULD \_\_\_\_\_ A RESPONSE!

Luke 2:10-18 NIV

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 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.” 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

● #3) GOOD NEWS & OVERWHELMING JOY IS FOR ALL OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT SHOULD ELICIT A RESPONSE!



## The Wonder of it all

How weird, how wild, how wonderful!  
This birth obscure and lowly  
That God would bend to walk the earth  
Redeem the world, so slowly.  
Why would the Maker be revealed,  
In such a common manner?  
No hats to say how great he was,  
No troops to fly his banner.

Hear how his words offend the wise  
With ordinary stories  
Yet in the questions he would ask  
The current of God's glory  
How deep, how wide this Mystery  
That none can ever capture  
Yet this True Grace will find us out  
And thus our hearts enrapture.

Such Goodness we are called to love  
More than to fear life's evils  
'Tis Mercy that will rule the world  
Though it looks run by devils.  
And so this Baby comes for all  
For Jew, for Arab, Muslim;  
No hate can drown the Child's call  
No doctrine be His master.

*by Pastor Tim Mull*



# MESSAGE NOTES

## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



*By reliving the story of  
Jesus' birth, you will  
experience the "good news of  
great joy for all the people"*

Sunday, Dec 24th, 2023 7PM  
**"CANDLELIGHT SERVICE"**

Message Title:

**"WHAT WE REALLY  
HUNGER FOR"**

Focus:

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
"At The Manger"**

Series: **"JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM"**



# FILL IN THE BLANKS

**AS WE COMPLETE ARE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM THERE ARE 3 KEY THINGS WE FIND AT THE MANGER :**

● #1) WHAT WE REALLY HUNGER FOR IS THE "\_\_\_\_\_ OF LIFE"!

## Luke 2:12-15

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 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." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

## John 6:35

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry."

**Luke 22:19.**

"And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me'."

## Isaiah 55:1-3

## An Invitation to Abundant Life

55 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts,  
Come to the waters; And you who have  
no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes,  
come, buy wine and milk Without money  
and without price. 2 Why do you spend  
money for *what is* not bread, And your  
wages for *what* does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what*  
*is* good, And let your soul delight itself in  
abundance. 3 Incline your ear, and come  
to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;  
And I will make an everlasting covenant  
with you—The sure mercies of David.

● #1) WHAT WE REALLY HUNGER FOR IS THE "BREAD OF LIFE"!



## ●#2) WHAT WE REALLY NEED & DESIRE IS THE "\_\_\_\_\_ OF LIFE"!

### John 1:1-5 NIV

"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome [understood, comprehend] it."

### John 8:12

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

### John 1:12

"But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God"

●#2) WHAT WE REALLY NEED & DESIRE IS THE "LIGHT OF LIFE"!



# "At The Manger w/ The Christ Child"





●#3) \_\_\_\_\_ THE "BREAD" & "LIGHT"  
ARE WHAT WE ARE REALLY \_\_\_\_\_  
TO DO IF THE ABOVE ARE TRUE!

### Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

### Micah 6:8

8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God

●#3) SHARING THE "BREAD" & "LIGHT"  
ARE WHAT WE ARE REALLY CALLED TO  
DO IF THE ABOVE ARE TRUE!