



Home For Christmas

Christmas provides us with the time to contemplate what really matters in life. It's also when we think about how **faith** influences those things.

I **The Story**

*"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."
Luke 2:4-7 (NIV 1984)*

It turns out that Jesus was not marginalized to some cold stable but rather **welcomed** into the **center** of the home. This is a picture of **grace** at Christ's birth.

II. **The Shepherds**

*"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. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ^{al} the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
Luke 2:8-12 (NIV 1984)*

It's likely that the Shepherds struggled with **doubt** just as we do.

No one who really **wants** Jesus will be turned away.

Conclusion: If you were honest, where is Jesus **right now** relative to your life?

Small Group Questions

1. How do you respond to the proposition that "if you don't live for Jesus, you will live for something else"? Do you think most people see it that clearly?
2. The fact that Jesus was likely born in a home in the center of where people lived sends what message to you?
3. The fact that the angel chose shepherds to visit the newborn Savior implies what about the Gospel message? Why is that such good news for everyone?
4. Have you ever found yourself as a "skeptical shepherd"? What's good about doubt in your life?
5. Where would you say Jesus is right now relative to your own life?