

The People Who Missed Christmas Selected Passages

Introduction: The First Christmas

The Inn Keeper (Luke 2:6-7)

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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 2:6-7 NIV)

The Person Then: The innkeeper missed Christmas because he was preoccupied with all that needed to be done as the town was bursting at its seams with activity.

The Person Today: Ignorant Preoccupation

The Reality: Preoccupied people often miss Christmas.

Insight: Surveys indicate the number one event where people who haven't been attending church will reconnect is the Christmas Eve service.

Action: Renew our commitment to keep Jesus at the center of our celebrations!

King Herod (Matthew 2:1-8)

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. (Matthew 2:3 NIV)

The Person Then: Herod reacted out of fear.

The Person Today: Fearful Self-Interest

The Reality: Jesus is a real threat to our personal agendas.

Insight: The Parable of the Ten Minas (Luke 19:11-27)

Action: Surrender the right to rule to Jesus!

The Religious Leaders (Matthew 2:4-6)

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea..." (Matthew 2:4-5 NIV)

The People Then: The religious leaders knew where the Messiah was to be born, but they didn't care enough to even send someone to check it out.

The People Today: Prideful Indifference

The Reality: People don't want Jesus because they don't believe they need Him.

Insight: The indifferent person doesn't openly oppose Jesus, he or she just ignores Him.

Action: Admit the need for repentance!

The Residents Of Judea (Luke 2:8-20)

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. (Luke 2:8-9 NIV)

The People Then: No one else other than the shepherds celebrated Jesus' birth. Those who were most religiously devoted missed it.

The People Today: Religious Ritualists

The Reality: Religious activity is no substitute for admitting our depth of spiritual poverty.

Insight: Religion becomes a deadly trap Satan uses to cause people to miss the object of their search: Jesus!

Action: Dedicate ourselves to worship Jesus this Christmas with hearts full of faith!

Conclusion: Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?