

Series: Christmas Stories

Part 4: Love

Sunday Dec. 20, 2015

1. Video: *The Story of Christmas Told Hilariously Wrong*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vp9mX8np1LM>

2. Video: Hallelujah:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5ji1uZYZIQ&list=RDTM1XusYVqNY&index=28>

3. *So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger* (v. 16).

4. How do *we* respond to what God has told us – in His word or through his people or by the nudging of our spirits by His spirit?

5. *When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child...* (v. 17).

6. What has God told us about Jesus? How do we tell others?

7. What experiences have we had of Jesus? How do we share them?

8. *...and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart* (vv. 18-19).

9. *The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told* (v. 20).

Study Notes

DISCUSSION

1. Which of the Christmas themes has most resonated for you this year: hope, joy, peace, or love?

2. How have you given or received hope, joy, peace, or love this season? What affect has it had on your Christmas?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Rob asked, "Is God strong enough and does He care enough to be worthy of our trust? Read: Co. 2:15; Ro. 8:11; Acts 3:15 as it relates to God's power. Read Heb. 2:14; 1 Jn. 3:16 as it relates to God's love. Share your observations from these texts about God's trustworthiness.

4. Read Mk. 9:14; Jn. 20:24-20; Mt. 28:17. Faith is sometimes filled with a little bit of doubt. How does this work?

5. Read Acts 17:16-34. What might we learn from Paul on how to thoughtfully share our faith with folks in our community?

APPLICATION

6. Rob talked about sharing our faith as sharing what we believe to be true about Jesus and sharing our experiences which seem to confirm those truths. What do you know about Jesus? How have you experienced Him?

7. How might you share your faith with:

- a. a child
- b. a student
- c. a working professional

THINK METAPHRICALLY!