

THREE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

TEXT: Mt 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. {rule: or, feed} Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

THESIS: To reveal 3 distinct groups of people living in Christ's day and their attitudes toward the Savior and parallel groups living today.

INTRO.: A. It seems as if from the smallest child to the oldest adult we all love to sing the "Christmas Carols". While some are not 100% scriptural, others tell the Christmas story of the Incarnation of our Savior in a musical and memorable way.

B. When Jesus clothed Himself with humanity there were 3 groups of people living with certain attitudes towards Him which are revealed in Scripture. Their counterparts live today and they can be identified by the "Christmas Carol" they sing. We will try to match the "carol" to the people of the past and those of the present. The first group sings...

I. "O COME LET US DESTROY HIM!"



A. King Herod...Attempted His Physical Destruction: (a deep commanding, bass voice)

1. His motive? Fear: (Afraid Christ would take his place)
2. It is true that Christ was born to be King of the Jews and ultimately King of Kings!
3. But His kingdom then was spiritual and now awaits literal fulfillment in the future.
 - a. His Kingdom was **"at hand"** while He was on earth, dependent upon its reception by the nation of Israel.
 - b. It is now awaiting God's judgment on Israel during the Trib. (**"the time of Jacob's trouble"**) for their rejection back then.
4. His motive? Deception (**Mt. 2:8**) (a deep resonant tone) and violence (**Mt. 2:16**) (screaming, noise)
5. The result? FAILURE, but apparent success.

B. Pharisees...Attempted to destroy Him intellectually (smooth, harmonious, persuasive voices)

1. Their motive? To maintain their control over the people.

- a. Their methods? Set verbal traps for Him

Mt 22:15 *Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?*

- b. They called Him "Master" and "Teacher"
- c. They praised His impartiality and justice
- d. They raised a 2-pronged question

1. The result? Failure!

Mt 22:18-22 *But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.*

- C. Liberals (unbelievers) today: Attempt to destroy Him theologically (loud, booming, overwhelming voices.)

1. Their motives? Personal fame and profit.

2Peter 2:1 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

2. Their methods?

- a. Question the veracity of God's Word and words.

ILLUS.: They raise doubts about the inspiration, historicity, and preservation of God's Word. These "scholars" admit they have never seen or held in their hands the "originals" (autographs) of God's Word, yet insist that only they can be trusted and are inspired. If you don't believe me, ask your pastor or professor or teacher if the King James Bible are the very words of God. His response will be something like "No translation can be inspired." That would be "double inspiration." Of course neither the original writers nor the KJB translators were "inspired." Only the words are inspired. But Jesus said we must have His words, not just His Word!

Mt 4:4 *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

- b. They question the Deity of Christ and refer to Him as Divine, but not Deity incarnate.
- c. They question the efficacious nature of Christ's death.

3. The ultimate result? Failure! **Let God be true and every man a liar... Thy word is forever settled in Heaven.**

II. "O COME LET US IGNORE HIM":



A. The Jews Ignored His Claim: ((The discordant voice of the mob)

1. They ignored the O.T. Scriptures. He said: "***Search the Scriptures...***"
2. They ignored His claims to Deity...He said: "***I and my Father are one...***"
3. They ignored His compassion for them: ***He healed them, fed them, wept over them "O Jerusalem..."***
4. They ignored His offer of salvation: "***He came unto His own...***"

NOTE: The infamous Innkeeper is typical of the Jews attitude: "No room..."

5. The result? Wild branches (Gentiles) grafted in Romans 11

B. The Majority of People Today Ignore Him: (Dull, listless, monotonous voice of the crowd)

1. They pretend to celebrate His birth and ignore His death!

NOTE: Check out the decorations on homes, malls, etc. and even in churches and you will rarely find even ONE MANGER SCENE! But here will be plenty of decorated trees, candles, lights, etc. I recently attended a HUGE Christmas light show and there was not one mention or display of Christ's birth.

2. They emphasize Santa and Rudolph and ignore the Savior.
3. They decorate a tree and ignore His tree.
4. They exchange gifts with each other and ignore His gift of eternal life.
5. They light homes and trees and ignore the Light of the World.
6. They make cakes and cookies and ignore the Bread of Life.
7. They drink booze and ignore the Living Water.
8. They laugh and make merry and ignore the Man of Sorrows.
9. They rock and roll and ignore the Rock of Ages.
10. They display poinsettias' and ignore the Rose of Sharon.
11. They talk about the Star of Bethlehem and ignore the Bright and Morning Star.
12. They may pause at the manger but ignore the Master.
13. They focus on the shepherds and ignore the Good Shepherd.
14. They speak of the Wise Men from the east and ignore the Wisdom of the Ages who will break the eastern sky soon.
15. They bow down to the virgin Mary and ignore the victorious Messiah.
16. They elevate the almighty dollar and ignore the Almighty God.
17. They gather with friends and family and ignore the Everlasting Father and His incarnate Son.

THE RESULT? Christmas without Christ! Celebration without a Savior! Ultimately judgment without repentance! You CANNOT IGNORE HIM any more than you can DESTROY HIM!

III. "O COME LET US ADORE HIM":



A. The Shepherds Came Reverently: (with reverent, hushed voices)

1. To be reverent means to bow down to, to offer obeisance to.
2. They "returned glorifying and praising God" ***Luke 2:20***

B. The Wise Men Came Worshipfully: (soft, worshipful voices)

1. They came properly: "***we...come to worship Him***"

2. They were rewarded accordingly: *"they saw the young child"*
3. They presented gifts lavishly: *"gold, frankincense, and myrrh"*

C. The Christian Comes Joyously...(with voices of praise, glory and thanksgiving)

NOTE: The true believer, past and present, are always few in number, but they are accepted and their worship is welcomed.

1. They love Him because He first loved them.
2. They adore Him because He first redeemed them.

CONCL.: Which Christmas Carol are you singing today? To which of the three groups do you belong: THE DESTROYERS, THE IGNORERS OR THE ADORERS? Join the latter group today!

