

Getting Ready for Christmas Luke 2:8-20

Five Things Christmas is the time for:

1. Christmas is a Time to Ponder vs. 19

“But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Lit., Bringing together: comparing and weighing facts. —Vincent
To get at the right meaning.

Things for Mary to compare and add up the evidence:

- Gabriel’s Visit
- Perhaps Joseph had told of the angel appearing to him in a dream
- The Shepherd’s Visit
- Later, Dedication: Simeon, Anna, & the Wise Men

Things for Us to Ponder:

- Why God would become a man?
- The descent of Jesus from Heaven to humanity.
- The union of God and man: How Jesus could, at once, be both fully God and fully man, in one person.
- Why the incarnation requires the virgin birth.
- Why his mission required his incarnation. Why couldn’t God send an angel or a human prophet?
- How, in Jesus, can deity and humanity sit enthroned together eternally.
- If true humanity is seen in Jesus, then what kind of humanity is found in us?
- If Jesus was the model of the Spirit-filled life, living in fellowship with the Father and in dependence upon the Father, then what are we doing?

As you sing the carols and watch the Christmas programs and listen to the music on the radio, *ponder!*

2. Christmas is a Time to Marvel vs. 18

“All those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

Marveled: Amazed, “To wonder at, to marvel, to admire”

- We have heard it so often
- We have thought about it so briefly and in so little depth
- We have lumped it in with fairy tales
- We have seen special effects in movies and it feels like a sweet little story

3. Christmas is a Time to Praise vs. 20

“Then the shepherds returned, *glorifying and praising God* for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.”

Glory: When the invisible attributes of the invisible God are made visible.

Glorify: When see a revealed attribute of God and rejoice in it & honor God for it.

- *Jesus heals a man who cannot walk*
Luke 5:25 “Immediately he got up before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God.”
- *Jesus heals a woman with a bad back after years of being bent over*
Luke 13:13 “Instantly she was restored and began to glorify God.”
- *Jesus raised a young man from the dead*
Luke 7:15-16 “The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Then fear came over everyone, and they glorified God...”
- *An angel of the Lord appears to the Shepherds at the first Christmas shining with the glory of the Lord*
Vs. 9 “Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and *the glory of the Lord shone around them*, and they were terrified.”
Vs. 20 “The shepherds returned, *glorifying and praising God* for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told.”

4. Christmas is a Time to Tell vs. 17

“Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.”

NLT: “The shepherds told everyone what had happened”

Literally: To make thoroughly known

[Lottie Moon]

5. Christmas is a Time to Find Jesus vs. 16

“They came *with haste* and *found* Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.”

Amplified: "So they went with haste, (and by searching) found Mary and Joseph and the Baby lying in a manger"

From: smalltownbaptist.net