

**Fully Immersing in the Christmas Story** (12/20/17)  
**Looking at the Characters in the Christmas Story**

I pray that your Christmas is Christ-centered!

Jesus is everything We allow Him to be in Our life.

He desires to be your all in all!

**Jesus Comes to Those Who Have Room for Him -  
Imagine Being The Inn Keeper!** (Luke 2:7)

Let's not be too hard the Inn Keeper.

He was making the best of a bad situation.

All Your rooms are Rented,

But, This girl is about to give birth on your doorstep  
So you scramble w/ the best solution you can muster.

It wasn't the best room, but it was "A" room.

Somebody got creative & made it happen!

How often do our lives get busy & Jesus gets  
crowded out?

Have you noticed Him lately? Perhaps its b/c you  
haven't made room for Him in the over-  
crowded place you call "your schedule."

Lets Make sure we make room this year for Jesus

***Jesus Comes to Those Who Have Room for Him.***

***Is your life fully immersed in the Christ of the  
Christmas Story?***

**Jesus Speaks to Those Who Are Willing to Listen  
- Imagine being one of the Shepherds!** (Lk 2:8-12)

Not my 1st choice for Spokemen to a group of

Extraterrestrial beings w/ Earth-shaking news

***But they were AVAILABLE!***

They were Still, & They were Willing to Hear.

***How long has it been since you were just Still &  
Listening for God's Voice?***

Jesus speaks to listening hearts - through His Word  
Still small voice, under all the other noise in your world.

If you haven't heard Him lately, it's not b/c He isn't  
speaking. ***It's because We haven't paused to listen.***

***Jesus Speaks to Those Who Are Still & Listening.  
Is your life fully immersed in the Christ of the  
Christmas Story?***

**Jesus Guides Those Who, by Faith Trust Him -**

**Imagine Being One the Wise Men!** MT 2:1-2; 8-11

Outsiders, Gentiles, perhaps least likely to anticipate,  
understand, or believe the prophecies of Messiah

They were men who Saw w/Eyes of Faith

They were men who Trusted w/Hearts of Faith.

They were men who Sought Him w/Unshakable Faith

They left their homes, & followed their faith.

***Jesus is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him***

He responds to our faith.

Men say, "show me and I'll believe."

God says, "Trust me and I'll show you!"

Have you exercised your Faith & Trusted Christ to  
be saved? (Jn 3:36a)

***Jesus Saves Those Who, by Faith Trust Him***

***Jesus Guides Those Who, by Faith Trust Him***

***Is your life fully immersed in the Christ of the  
Christmas Story?***

**Jesus Gives Himself to Those Who Want Him -**

**Imagine Being Mary!** (Luke 2:4-6) Mary, the least likely candidate to deliver & raise the God-man An Obscure young girl from an Obscure village; during a time of oppression, poverty, & darkness. She wasn't much by the World's standards, but she was 1 thing. *Willing*.

She was living a life of love & honor before God. She was Naive enough to avoid religious politics & She loved God enough to Be PURE.

God chose a person who would accept His plan.

**Bottom line—She wanted Jesus!** - (Lk 1:28)

Not for political or Personal gain.

So it is today. Jesus manifests Himself & His will to those who have willing hearts who love Him. He gives His Guidance, Strength, & Blessing to those who want Him & His will, w/o question.

He gives Himself to those who are Pure, Who Avoid the religious politics, & love Him in truth.

*Jesus Gives Himself to Those Who Want Him.*  
*Is your life fully immersed in the Christ of the Christmas Story?*

**Jesus Leads Those Who Have the Sense to Follow**  
**Imagine Being Joseph!** - (Matt 1:24-25)

Imagine the pressure on young Joseph.

Imagine the sense of responsibility that fell upon this young man who would be the adoptive father of the Christ child!

Within a short time the Ridicule would start.

Then people would be after Jesus' life. Besides the normal fatherly duty to protect Jesus from every day dangers, Joseph had King Herod & his army are on a search & destroy mission!

***But God led and Joseph followed.***

God provided a way out and Joseph obeyed.

God is willing to lead us.

He desires to help us get from wherever we are to where He wants us to be.

But we must have the good sense to Obey & Follow.

***Jesus Leads Those Who Have the Sense to Follow***  
***Is your life fully immersed in the Christ of the Christmas Story?***

**Jesus Changes Those Who Have the Humility to**  
**Need Him -**

**Imagine Being Simeon & Anna!**

(Luke 2:25-32; 36-38)

Simeon & Anna were two people, amid thousands, who got it.

Imagine all the traffic at the temple—  
all the buying and selling,  
all the religious bustle,

all the flurry of ceremonial activity—

These were the only two people who allowed the reality of Jesus to impact their heart & life.

For the rest of the Jewish worshippers, Jesus was a non-event.

Sacrifices was just a financial transaction to them. A tradition of conscience that affected no real change

Worship was something to get taken care of so life could resume.

But not for Anna and Simeon.

Their whole identity was wrapped up in Jesus. They had been waiting, anticipating, praying, loving, & truly worshipping.

So it is today, Jesus is either the center stage in your life—transforming you, molding you, using you as your very life and breath.

Or He is simply a half-hearted transaction—a token of religion to salve the conscience.

Real transformation takes place when you become deeply rooted in an authentic relationship with Him.

Do You Need Him?

Are You looking for His Coming?

***Jesus Changes Those Who Have the Humility to Need Him.***

***Is your life fully immersed in the Christ of the Christmas Story?***

**Jesus Uses Those Who Can't Keep Silent About Him—All the Characters!**

***The message of Jesus is all over the Christmas story!***

The shepherds went and told everyone. (Lk 2:17)  
The wise men witnessed to Herod & “all Jerusalem!”  
Anna spoke to everyone she could @ Jesus:(Lk 2:38)

Most everyone who encountered the Christ wanted to share the news!

It's hard to find a life transformed by Jesus that doesn't then go speak to others about Jesus.  
(Jn 1:40-42a)

Have you told someone of Him recently?

Herod wanted Him silenced?

Shepherds wanted Him proclaimed!

Herod wanted Him neutralized.

Anna wanted Him magnified!

***Which are you and I more like?***

If you're waiting for someone to ask you if you have ever encountered a miraculous Christ, it won't happen.

*Is your life fully immersed in the Christ of the  
Christmas Story?*

Our call is to willingly & passionately speak about  
this Jesus!

Our relationship with Jesus is to be Expressed as a  
fully immersed life.

One that has so deeply penetrated our heart, that it  
affects every other issue of life until His presence &  
power flowing through us is unmistakable,  
irresistible, & undeniable.

**Let Jesus be who He truly desires to be this  
Christmas and new year!**

*Is your life fully immersed in the Christ of the  
Christmas Story?*