

Unwrapping Christmas

December 22, 2024

When Jesus came into the world, He brought more than a moment—He brought a movement.

“¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. ²This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.” Luke 2:1-3 (CSB)

“⁴Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, ⁵to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to give birth.” Luke 2:4-6 (CSB)

Unwrapping Four Gifts from Jesus

1. Hope in the Waiting

God is working in our waiting.

“⁷Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped Him tightly in cloth and laid Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’ ... ” Luke 2:7-10 (CSB)

2. Peace in the Chaos

Peace isn’t found in perfect circumstances—it’s found in the presence of Jesus.

“¹⁰‘Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: ¹¹Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!” Luke 2:10-14 (CSB)

3. Joy in the Good News

Joy is the sound of Jesus overcoming darkness with light.

“¹⁵When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ¹⁶They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to

them. ¹⁹But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.” Luke 2:15-20 (CSB)

4. Love in the Manger

Jesus entered into the manger so He could step into our mess to bring a glorious message, of His cross and resurrection.