

## Christmas ~~Presents~~ Presence: Part 2

Tim Gill - December 14, 2014

- Christmas is not about the presents we get from people...but about the presence of people.
- Who I am and where I go matters during the Christmas season.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found **Mary** and **Joseph**, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The **shepherds** returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:15-20 (NIV)

### What can I do to bring God’s presence in Christmas?

#### 1. I can choose to have a positive attitude. (v.20)

The **shepherds** returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.

Be glad in God... Philippians 3:1 (MSG)

Delight yourselves in God, yes, find your joy in him at all times. Have a reputation for gentleness, and never forget the nearness of your Lord.

Philippians 4:4-5 (Phillips)

#### 2. I can tell others about Jesus. (v.17-18)

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

- God uses ordinary people to pass along the Christmas story.

I can tell others ‘about the child’ in two ways:

##### #1- By inviting others in.

Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Luke 2:15-16 (NIV)

##### #2- By telling others my story.

...all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:18 (NIV)

As you share your faith with others, I pray that they may come to know all the blessings Christ has given us.

Philemon 6 (CEV)

O God... I constantly **tell others** about the wonderful things you do.

Psalms 71:17 (NLT)

All of you set free by GOD, tell the world! Tell how he freed you from oppression.

Psalms 107:2 (MSG)

#### 3. I can look for ways to serve others.

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Luke 1:38 (NIV)

Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God’s words; if help, let it be God’s hearty help. That way, God’s bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus.

1 Peter 4:9-11 (MSG)

#### 4. I can be with others. (v.15)

So they hurried off and found **Mary** and **Joseph**, and the **baby**, who was lying in the manger.

- The Bible does not record a single word from the lips of Joseph.
  - Joseph is sensitive and merciful.
- There is power in my presence.

Two are better than one...If two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

Ecclesiastes 4:9, 11 (KJV)

- The major characters of the Christmas story:
  - Jesus.
  - Mary.
  - Joseph.
  - Shepherds.
  - Me.
- Challenge: Who needs my presence?