



**Worship is  
a gift**

  
FIRST MELISSA

# Christmas Eve Services

Please join us tomorrow night

4:00 pm or 5:30 pm



# What is Christmas?

The annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus, celebrated on December 25 in all churches except the Church of Armenia, for which it is January 6. The term appears as early as 1123 AD in Old English as 'Cristes maesse' (and variations) and 'Christmas' by 1568 AD, meaning Mass of Christ. The actual date of Jesus' birth is unknown. There is no evidence of celebrating the nativity before the third century AD.

– Harper's Bible Dictionary



# Keeping Christ in Christmas



jollydollyparents

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## 7 Ways to Keep Christ in Christmas

by Guest Writer on December 05, 2018

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Nov 14th 2017

## WAYS TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Written By BECCA 48 Comments

The holidays are upon us and today we are sharing...

### WAYS TO HAVE A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS

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## Keeping Christ in Christmas



Christmas season brings blessings and gifts. It's a special time to reflect on Jesus, his birth, and what he has meant to the world. His words resonate even more deeply during Christmas.

Unfortunately, the reason for the season gets lost in commercialization.

Black Friday, Cyber Monday and endless holiday shopping are fun, but they blur the story of Jesus' birth.


ThoughtCo. | How to Keep Christ in Christmas

Home » Religion & Spirituality

## How to Keep Christ in Christmas

10 Purposeful Ways to Make Christ the Center of Your Christmas

f print p share




Scheduling time for family bonding

Surviving Christmas chaos: A family plan for minimizing stress during the holidays

Celebrating a Christ-centered Christmas with your kids

## Fun ideas for keeping Christ at the centre of Christmas



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWMPLTrCfb0>
- Start at 0:09
- End at 0:26



# Keeping Christ in Christmas

Our choice



# 3 Steps to Keeping Christ in Christmas

- Remember the **Arrival** of Messiah      Luke 2





Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. Luke 2:1-5



Caravans would travel about 20 miles in a day, and the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem (80-90 miles) would normally translate into a 4 or 5 day journey.

However, Mary (nearing her pregnancy term) would require more than 4 days for fear of miscarriage. So perhaps 7 days (or more) would have been needed.

Source: <http://wiki.answers.com/>

In Jesus' day, Bethlehem was a village of less than 500 people.



“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.” Micah 5:2

\*Written about 700 BC





Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

# Worship Is A Gift

While they were there, the days were completed for her (Mary) to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

Is there room for Jesus in my Christmas?

Is there room for Jesus in my life?



# Who is this Savior, God who took on human flesh?

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

John 8:12

Jesus said, “I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

John 12:46



Last week...

At First Melissa, our calling is to “reach intentionally.” We are called to be sensitive to the world around us and to look for opportunities to share the story of the Jesus (the Light of God) when people are hurting and searching.

This Christmas, God is calling each of us to know the light, worship the light, demonstrate the light, and share the light.

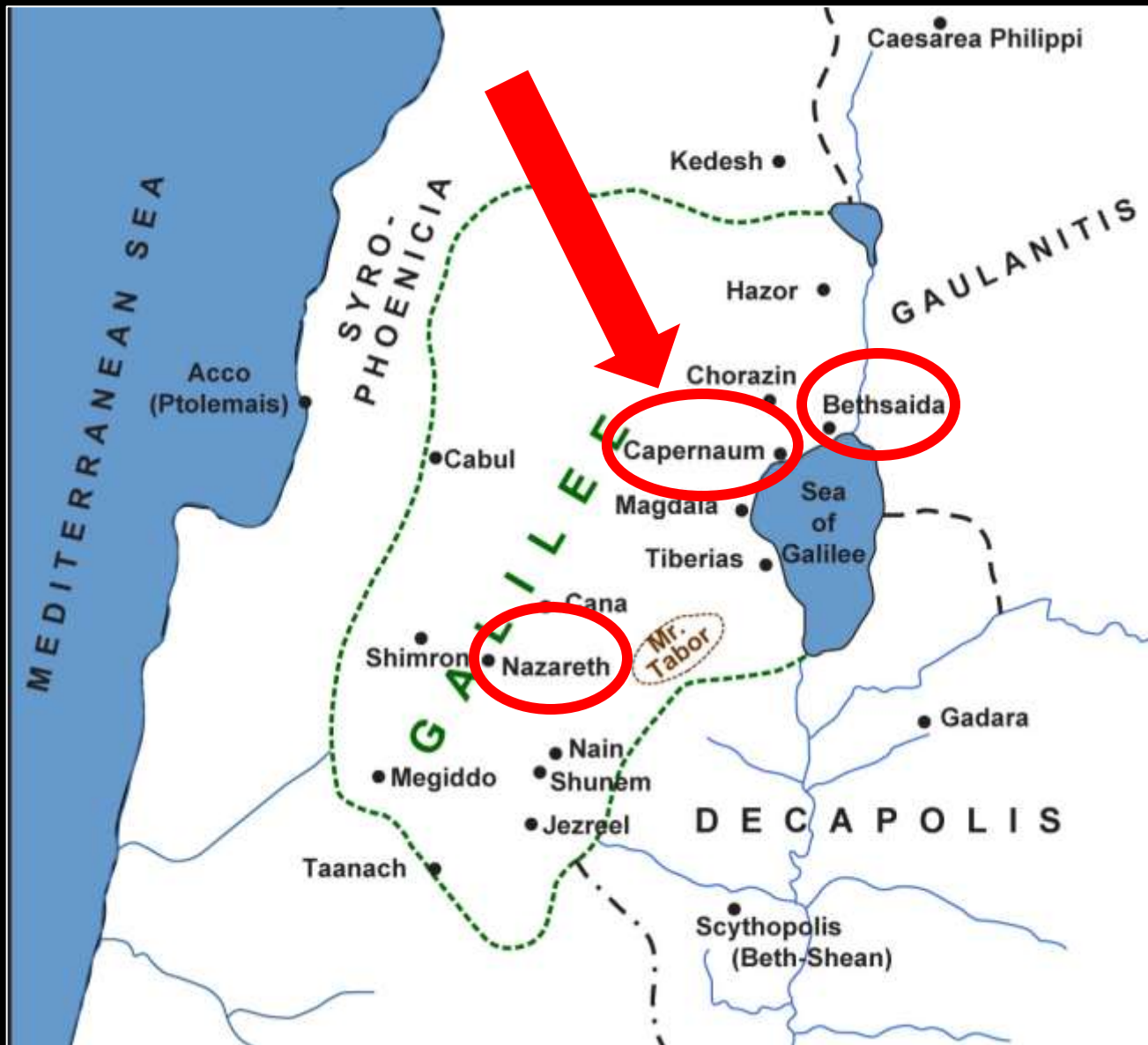


# 3 Steps to Keeping Christ in Christmas

- Remember the **Arrival** of Messiah      Luke 2
- Recognize the **Ask** of Messiah      Matthew 4







Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Matthew 4:18

\*The Messiah meets us where we are





And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19

\*Are we listening to the **Ask** of Messiah this Christmas?

\*He wants to change us into something we have never been



Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. Matthew 4:20-22

What will I leave behind to follow Jesus?



# Recognize the **Ask** of Messiah

- This Christmas, will you invite someone to walk with you as you follow Jesus?
- For Christmas Eve services tomorrow, will you invite someone to walk with you as you come to worship Jesus?



# 3 Steps to Keeping Christ in Christmas

- Remember the **Arrival** of Messiah Luke 2
- Recognize the **Ask** of Messiah Matthew 4
- Respond to the **Assignment** of Messiah Acts 1



So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” Acts 1:6

This Christmas, we are also asking...

“Jesus, are you finally going to stop the false religiosity and the evil people in our culture?”



He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority” Acts 1:7

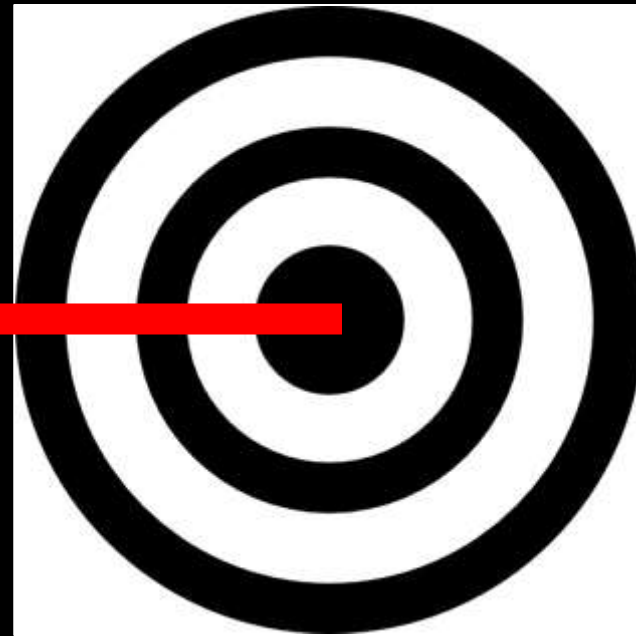
Will we obey Jesus even when our lives are hard and complicated?

Will we obey Jesus even when the world seems to reject Him?

Will we obey Jesus even when we don't understand everything?



Jesus said, “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses (Greek μάρτυς *martus*) both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8



The Assignment of Messiah



# You are called to be a missionary in your part of the world

## What do missionaries (witnesses) do?

- Leave the familiarity of home
- Go into uncomfortable situations
- Learn a new language if necessary
- Understand a new people group
- Love people unconditionally
- Explain that salvation is found only in Jesus



# Respond to the **Assignment** of Messiah

Jesus wants us to follow His example as missionaries

Jesus prayed to the Father, “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” John 17:18

The Messiah is sending us this Christmas to a hurting world



# 3 Steps to Keeping Christ in Christmas

- Remember the **Arrival** of Messiah Luke 2
- Recognize the **Ask** of Messiah Matthew 4
- Respond to the **Assignment** of Messiah Acts 1

In every instance... God took the initiative and reached out to us.

Are we ready to say yes?

