

## **THE DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTMAS**

### **RESPONSES TO CHRISTMAS CAN VARY**

#### **❖ A wide range of responses**

- ◆ Excitement of a 5 year old - Exhaustion of his mother
- ◆ Challenging for some
- ◆ From thrilled to dread

### **THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CREATED RESPONSES ON MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS**

*(Luke 2:6-20 NKJ)*

#### **❖ The response of the innkeeper**

- ◆ Completely unaware that God had pierced the darkness through the birth of His Son
- ◆ He was busy - no time and no place

#### **❖ King Herod's response**

- ◆ Key words here are troubled / threatened
- ◆ He was well aware of the ancient prophecies of the Jewish Messiah
- ◆ In Herod's world there was only room for one king

#### **❖ From one end of the social spectrum - a King, to the other - the shepherds**

- ◆ These guys were excited
- ◆ Why these guys? Not near the top of the social order - Had to have been a heart thing
  - A willingness to believe
  - A lack of fear regarding what others thought - may have come off as crazy
  - The humility to offer God praise

#### **❖ Joseph and Mary - the ones who experienced the birth of Jesus on so many different levels**

- ◆ Their response was deeply personal
- ◆ The sheer difficulty of processing all that was happening
- ◆ They took these things to heart and took Jesus home to become a part of their life
  - A place in your heart and a place in your home - that's personal

### **THE DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF CHRISTMAS AND THE VARIED RESPONSES**

#### **CONTINUE TODAY**

#### **❖ The indifference of the innkeeper**

- ◆ Not malicious toward Jesus - He just has no place in their lives
- ◆ Pretty much unaware - God is doing amazing things all around them but...

#### **❖ The troubled anger of King Herod**

- ◆ To some Jesus is troubling - a threat
- ◆ Requires a decision - but for many there is only room for one king in their kingdom

#### **❖ An inner excitement that exists today and that mirrors the shepherds**

- ◆ An openness to God and a willingness to believe that life is not nearly so random
- ◆ The hope that God is not only real but He is real good

#### **❖ The quiet reflective response of Joseph and Mary**

- ◆ Carried by the belief that not only can God do awesome things He can do them for me personally
- ◆ God's message to us through the birth of His Son is personal
  - His salvation is deeply personal
- ◆ Not totally understanding everything but willing to
  - Take the step of faith of believing of a simple trust
  - And making Jesus part of your life, part of your heart part of your home