

**Title:** The True Christmas Spirit

**Passage:** Luke 1:26-56

**Introduction:**

*Question:* What is the right response to Christmas?

**Passage:** Luke 1:46-50 (NASB)

And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name. " AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM."

**Question:**

What is the Christmas spirit?

**The right response to Christmas: Worship**

Luke 1:67-68 (Zechariah's Prophecy)

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

Luke 2:13-14 (angels' response)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Luke 2:27-28 (Simeon's response)

And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

Luke 2:36-37 (Anna's response)

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

Matthew 2:1-2 (Magi's response)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:8 (Herod's response)

And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

- apart from worship, any other response to Christmas is inadequate

**Overview: Genuine Christmas spirit is true worship**

I. True worship begins in the heart

II. True worship focuses on God and who He has revealed Himself to be

III. True worship is marked by humility

IV. True worship overflows in having God's heart for others

**I. True Christmas worship begins in the heart**

Luke 1:46-47

And Mary said,

"*My soul* magnifies the Lord, and *my spirit* rejoices in God my Savior

- Genuine worship begins and starts in the heart, the inner being of us
- Heart = our entire mind, emotions,

*Contrast: False worship is superficial*

Matthew 15:7-9

You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

2 Chronicles 25:2

And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart.

*True worship begins in the heart*

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those *whose heart is blameless* toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the LORD your God *with all your heart* and with all your soul and with all your might.

*How do we get a heart of worship? Comes from God.*

Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 4:23-24

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

## **II. True worship focuses on God and who He has revealed Himself to be**

Luke 1:46-47

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

- Focus is on who God is: the Lord
  - Meditate on who God is.
  - Consider all of the names of God, which reveal His character.
- Focus on who God is: my Savior
  - Recognize one’s own sin and desperate need for a savior
  - God, have mercy on us who have grown cold or complacent in worship of God in light of what He has done!

Philippians 2:5-8

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- Focus on who God has revealed Himself to be

- Through the Bible, not from your self-perceptions which may be limiting

### Psalm 83:18

That they may know You alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.

### **III. True worship is marked by humility**

#### Luke 1:48-49

for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

- worship came out of deep humility and gratitude in response to what God has done.

#### 2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure *in jars of clay*, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

### **IV. True worship overflows in having God's heart for others**

#### Luke 1:50

And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

- Salvation is not just for herself alone but also for others as well
- Word for "generation" also references the nations

#### Psalms 103:17

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children

- Key to recognize that God not only came to save you but also others as well!

Song: "People Need the Lord"

<https://youtu.be/1uZcGaixMhg>

*Give the gift of The Gospel*

#### Acts 20:35

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"