

DON'T GIVE UP – LOOK UP!

Rick Warren
Christmas 2017

“God, when I LOOK UP at the night sky and see your handiwork... the moon and all the stars that you set in place, I ask, ‘What are we mortals that you should bother with us? And why should you care about mere humans?’ But you made us just a little lower than angels and you’ve given us glory and honor, and you put us in charge of everything you made... Lord you are amazing!” Psalm 8:3-6

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS DIDN'T START OFF “MERRY”

- **MARY WAS** _____

“Confused and deeply disturbed, Mary tried to think of what the angel’s words might possibly mean.” Luke 1:29

- **JOSEPH WAS** _____

“Joseph decided to break off the engagement quietly, so as not to disgrace Mary publicly.” Matthew 1:19

- **THE SHEPHERDS WERE** _____

“That night there were shepherds out in the fields nearby, watching over their flocks. Suddenly, the night sky lit up, an angel of the Lord appeared, and God’s bright glory blazed all around them, and they were terrified.” Luke 2:8-9

- **THE WISE MEN WERE** _____

“Now after Jesus was born, some wise men traveled a long way from the east and finally arrived in Jerusalem.” Matthew 2:1

Are you feeling any of these *this* Christmas?
Do what each of these people did: *Look up!*

WHEN THEIR _____ CHANGED, THEIR _____ CHANGED!

- **EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR MARY WHEN . . .**

(The angel told Mary) “Nothing, you see, is impossible with God” And Mary said, YES, I SEE IT ALL NOW! I’m the Lord’s maid, ready to serve! So let it be with me just as you say.” Luke 1:37-38 (The Message)

FROM CONFUSION TO CELEBRATION

(Mary prayed) “God took one good look at me, and look what happened – I’m the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten!” Luke 1:48 (The Message)

“Mary’s neighbors and relatives, seeing that God had overwhelmed her with mercy, celebrated with her!” Luke 1:58 (The Message)

- **EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR JOSEPH WHEN . . .**

“As Joseph lay on his bed considering what he might do, he fell into a dream and saw an angel standing beside him. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘Don’t hesitate to take Mary as your wife! For the child within her really has been conceived by the Holy Spirit.’” Matthew 1:20

- **EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR THE SHEPHERDS WHEN . . .**

“The angel said to the shepherds ‘Do not be afraid! For I bring you good news of great joy which will be for ALL people! Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born FOR YOU! He is Christ the Lord. And this is what you’re to look for: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel, praising God and singing ‘Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to all whom God favors!’

Then the shepherds said to each other, ‘Let’s Go! Let’s go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ So they ran to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger!

After they had seen Jesus, they spread the word to everyone about this child. . . Then the shepherds went back to their fields and flocks, singing and praising God for what the angels had told them, and because they had seen the child.” Luke 2:9-17, 20

- **EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR THE WISE MEN WHEN . . .**

(After leaving King Herod) “Then the star appeared to them again guiding them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! And when they entered the house, they SAW the child with his mother Mary. So they bowed down and they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and they gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Matthew 2:9-11 (GW)

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT JESUS OFFERS TO YOU

JESUS SAID, “If you’re tired of carrying a heavy load, and you feel like giving up, come to me and I will give you REST! Yoke up with me and let me teach you how to REALLY LIVE, for I’m gentle and humble, and you’ll find YOUR SOUL REFRESHED AND RECOVERED. Living connected to me is far EASIER, and my strength in you will LIGHTEN THE BURDENS you carry!” Matthew 11:28-30

“TODAY, A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU!” Luke 2:11