

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56

Thémé: Preparing for Christmas.

Text: Luke 1:46-47: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Proposition: The period of preparation for Christmas ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is a time for rejoicing in our religion, as well as in our gifts and loved ones.

Date written: December 17, 1955

Revised: December 6, 1969

Dates and places used:

Dec. 18, 55, Grace Ch., Cheyenne, Wyo.

Dec. 21, 58, First Ch., Sheridan, Wyo.

Dec. 17, 61, National Guard, Montrose, Colo.

Dec. 7, 1969 called Paul, Fla -

DEC-11, 1983 - O.O. EISENHOWER ARMY

MEDICAL CENTER, FT. SHERIDAN - 10:00 A.M.

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56

Theme: Preparing for Christmas.

Text: Luke 1:46-47: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Proposition: The period of preparation for Christmas is a time for rejoicing in our religion, as well as in our gifts and loved ones.

Date written: December 17, 1955
Revised: December 6, 1969

Dates and places used:

- Dec. 18, 55, Grace Ch., Cheyenne, Wyo.
- Dec. 21, 58, First Ch., Sheridan, Wyo.
- Dec. 17, 61, National Guard, Montrose, Colo.

Introduction:

1. In the parts of Luke preceding the Scripture we have read today is Luke's account that the angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth to the Virgin Mary. The angel told her that she was favored of the Lord, that she would conceive a son, and that he should be called Jesus. This son was to be great, the angel said, and should be called the Son of the Most High. He would reign over the house of David, and there would be no end to his kingdom. Mary wanted to know how this could be, since she had no husband, ^{SHE} and was told that the Holy Spirit would bring it about, and that the child therefore would be called the Son of God. The angel also told Mary that her kinswoman Elizabeth, then a childless old woman, had also conceived, for with God nothing was impossible. Mary responded to the angel's message, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

2. In our Scripture is an account that after this appearance of the angel to ~~MARY, MARY~~ her, Mary went hurriedly to "a city of Judah" to visit Elizabeth. When she entered her kins-

Introduction:

1. In the parts of Luke preceding the Scripture we have read today is Luke's account that the angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth to the Virgin Mary. The angel told her that she was favored of the Lord, that she would conceive a son, and that he should be called Jesus. This son was to be great, the angel said, and should be called the Son of the Most High. He would reign over the house of David, and there would be no end to his kingdom. Mary wanted to know how this could be, since she had no husband, and was told that the Holy Spirit would bring it about, and that the child therefore would be called the Son of God. The angel also told Mary that her kinswoman Elizabeth, then a childless old woman, had also conceived, for with God nothing was impossible. Mary responded to the angel's message, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

2. In our Scripture is an account

that after this appearance of the angel to Mary, Mary went hurriedly to "a city of Judah" to visit Elizabeth. When she entered her kin-

woman's house, Elizabeth felt her babe leap within her, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary responded with the famous and beautiful words known as the "Magnificat." It begins, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." ~~XXXXX~~ These words ~~XXXXX~~ we use as a text to guide us today in thinking about our theme, "Preparing for Christmas." I think that these ~~words~~ ^{WORDS} indicate some ways in which we might prepare ourselves to grow spiritually in the coming Christmas season.

3W Christmas these days is a season of lots of parties. At one such event, a cute young blonde sat down beside another feminine guest. "I wonder what's wrong with that tall red-headed fellow over there," she said suddenly. "Just a while ago he was getting awfully friendly, but then all of a sudden he turned pale and walked away. Now he won't even look at me."

"Maybe he saw me coming in," was the other woman's terse remark. "I'm his wife."

If "Red" really valued his wife as he said he did at the wedding, and

woman's house, Elizabeth felt her babe
 leap within her, was filled with the
 Holy Spirit, and exclaimed, "Blessed
 are you among women, and blessed is
 the fruit of your womb." Mary respon-
 ded with the famous and beautiful
 words known as the "Magnificat." It
 begins, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my
 Savior." Luke's these words which we
 use as a text to guide us today in
 thinking about our theme, "preparing
 for Christmas." I think that they
 indicate some ways in which we might
 prepare ourselves to grow spiritually
 in the coming Christmas season.

I. 3. Christmas these days is a sea-
 son of lots of parties. At one such
 event, a cute young blonde sat down
 beside another feminine guest. "I won-
 der what's wrong with that tall red-
 headed fellow over there," she said
 suddenly. "Just a while ago he was
 getting awfully friendly, but then all
 of a sudden he turned pale and walked
 away. Now he won't even look at me."
 "Maybe he saw me coming in," was
 the other woman's terse remark. "I'm
 his wife."

If "I" really valued his wife
 as he said he did at the wedding, and

AS an honest husband will try to do, he would have kept her first in his mind all the time, so that his relationship with anyone else could not be misinterpreted for more than normal courtesy and conversation. Similarly, if we are interested in the real meaning of Christ and Christmas, we will and

II. We should put God, ~~AND~~ Christ, first in preparing for this season.

1. Mary's words "my soul magnifies the Lord," suggest that she saw mainly her God, that she did put Him first.

2. When we today hear the word "magnify", we may think of something made to appear larger than it is, perhaps through the usage of a glass lens. Perhaps magnification by a microscope gives a truer picture of the importance of a tiny organism than we would otherwise get. Such would be the case when the microscope reveals that the cause of a serious illness is a tiny germ which is invisible to the naked eye. The microscope may reveal good things as well, as, for instance, that an unnatural growth is not, after all, the greatly-feared

to an honest husband will try to do, he would have kept her first in his mind all the time, so that his relationship with anyone else could not be misinterpreted for more than normal courtesy and conversation. Similarly, if we are interested in the real meaning of Christ and Christmas, we will and

1. We should put God, or Christ, first in preparing for this season.

1. Mary's words "my soul magnifies the Lord," suggest that she saw mainly her God, that she did put Him first.

2. When we today hear the word "magnify", we may think of something made to appear larger than it is, perhaps through the usage of a glass lens. Perhaps magnification by a microscope gives a truer picture of the importance of a tiny organism than we would otherwise get. Such would be the case when the microscope reveals that the cause of a serious illness is a tiny germ which is invisible to the naked eye. The microscope may reveal good things as well, as, for instance, that an unnatural growth is not, after all, the greatly-feared

malignant tissue called cancer.

At least, it tells us the truth, so far as we are able to interpret it, about that which is magnified.

3. When we "magnify" the Lord, we mean that we lift the thought of Him from the almost insignificant place we often assign Him. We put Him first in our thoughts. We think seriously on His nature, power, love and mercy.

4. Such should be our attitude at this time of preparation for Christmas. We do need to concentrate on the idea of God, to realize how dependent we are on Him. We need to compare that which we call good ethics and righteous living with the attitudes and standards of Christ, and to revise our lives accordingly. When we do so, we become aware of our desire to praise the One whose birth we celebrate at the coming of Christmas.

5. A star football halfback with a professional team went to the hospital to see his wife and new-born son. Glowing with pride and joy, he rushed in and asked to hold his new son.

alignant tissue called cancer. At least, it tells us the truth, so far as we are able to interpret it, about that which is magnified.

3. When we "magnify" the Lord, we mean that we lift the thought of Him from the almost insignificant place we often assign Him. We put Him first in our thoughts. We think seriously on His nature, power, love and mercy.

4. Such should be our attitude at this time of preparation for Christmas. We do need to concentrate on the idea of God, to realize how dependent we are on Him. We need to commend that which we call good ethics and righteous living with the attitudes and standards of Christ, and to revise our lives accordingly. When we do so, we become aware of our desire to praise the One whose birth we celebrate at the coming of Christmas.

5. A star football player with a professional team went to the hospital to see his wife and new-born son. Glowing with pride and joy, he rushed in and asked to hold his new son.

"Not on your life," his wife said.

"Why not?" he demanded.

"You fumble too much," she replied.

II. In preparing for Christmas we should be joyous about the newborn King, and should have a joyous time, but prior preparation will help it be a season with only uplifting and good effects.

1. Before that first Christmas, Mary said, "My spirit rejoices in God."

2. We believe that today, too, Christmas should be a time of rejoicing in God.

a. Preparation would surely include plans for a joyful and harmless observance of the customary practices. Jesus, after all, set an example in observing the celebrations of his day. The tree, the gifts, the family get-togethers, are all good things, which we should enjoy.

b. Jesus is recorded as having visited the homes of friends and having joined in their meals. We should feel no guilt about enjoying the good food with which we are blessed in our celebrating.

"Not on your life," his wife said.

"Why not?" he demanded.

"You fumble too much," she replied.

II. In preparing for Christmas we

should be jealous about the newborn

kind, and should have a jealous time,

but prior preparation will help it

be a season with only uplifting and

good effects.

1. Before that first Christmas, Mary

said, "My spirit rejoices in God."

2. We believe that today, too,

Christmas should be a time of rejoic-

ing in God.

a. Preparation would surely in-

clude pains for a joyful and harmless

observance of the customary prac-

tices. Jesus, after all, set an

example in observing the celebra-

tions of his day. The trees, the

gifts, the family get-togethers, are

all good things, which we should

enjoy.

b. Jesus is recorded as having

visited the homes of friends and

having joined in their meals. We

should feel no guilt about enjoying

the good food with which we are

blessed in our celebrating.

c. On special Jewish holidays, Jesus worshipped in the synagogue or temple, and was brought up so to do. Even so, we should have worship as part of the Christmas observance. Ideally, such a service should be planned for and entered in as the keynote activity kicking off the joy of the day. Thus, Christmas Eve is a good time to have it, perhaps before the opening of gifts that evening, as some families do; or to set the religious tone of the whole next day.

III. We must recognize Jesus as our Saviour if we are to have a real motive for a Christian celebration of Christmas.

1. Mary said, "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

2. For a person of today who really believes that the Savior was born on the first Christmas, the day can become a spontaneous flowing out of love and gratitude. The feast we have becomes a reminder of God's infinite love and mercy. The gifts we give are the expression to loved ones of the belief that God loves them even as you do.

On special Jewish holidays, Jesus worshipped in the synagogue or temple, and was brought up so to do. Even so, we should have worship as part of the Christmas observance. Ideally, such a service should be planned for and entered in as the keynote activity kicking off the joy of the day. Thus, Christmas Eve is a good time to have it, perhaps before the opening of gifts that evening, as some families do, or to set the religious tone of the whole next day.

III. We must recognize Jesus as our Saviour if we are to have a real motive for a Christian celebration of Christmas.

1. Mary said, "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

2. For a person of today who really believes that the Saviour was born on the first Christmas, the day can become a spontaneous flowing out of love and gratitude. The feast we have becomes a reminder of God's infinite love and mercy. The gifts we give are the expression to loved ones of the belief that God loves them even as you do.

Luke 1:37-50

The songs and the light-heartedness of Christmas can be expressions of joy that forgiveness and eternal life are for everyone who believes in Christ as Savior. It all makes sense this way. Without Jesus Christ as Savior, why all the commotion? Just to have an excuse for another round of parties?

Conclusion:

All of this means that in preparing for Christmas,

1. We should "magnify" God and Christ in our preparations for the season;
2. We should prepare for a joyous Christmas, reminding us of God, the source of our joy;
3. We should keep foremost the thought of Christ as savior, over whose coming we rejoice.
4. This period of preparation for Christmas, now beginning, can be, should be, indeed a time for rejoicing in our faith, as well as in our gifts and with our loved ones.

The songs and the light-heartedness of Christmas can be expressions of joy that forgiveness and eternal life are for everyone who believes in Christ as Savior. It all makes sense this way. Without Jesus Christ as Savior, why all the commotion? Just to have an excuse for another round of parties?

Conclusion:

All of this means that in preparing for Christmas,

1. We should "magnify" God and Christ in our preparations for the season;

2. We should prepare for a joyous Christmas, reminding us of God, the source of our joy;

3. We should keep foremost the thought of Christ as Savior, over whose coming we rejoice.

4. This period of preparation for Christmas, now beginning, can be, should be, indeed a time for rejoicing in our faith, as well as in our gifts and with our loved ones.