

From Christmas To The Cross

How Did We End Up Here?

Luke 23:24-27

We Should Have Seen This Coming:

Luke 2 & 23

CHRISTMAS AND THE CROSS:

- ▶ **Poverty**
- ▶ **A Crowded City**
- ▶ **Unmet Expectations**
- ▶ **Panicked Authorities**
- ▶ **The Wrong Crowd**
- ▶ **Blind Religious Leaders**
- ▶ **A Borrowed Place to Lay**

ONE GLARING DIFFERENCE:

- ▶ Heaven **celebrates** at the manger, and is **silent** at the cross

Rediscovering The Christmas Characters:

Luke 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

What Is Your Christmas Story?

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What Is Your Christmas Story?

1. The news that Mary was pregnant and unwed was tough to explain and it was met with negative responses from others. Yet Mary, knowing it was a God-thing, responded with a prayer of praise. Read through her prayer in Luke 1:46-55 and write down all the things for which Mary praised God.

Now take a moment to express your own prayer of praise for all that God has done and provided for you.

2. As the events of that first Christmas unfolded, “Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19). In order to see God’s work in the midst of life’s confusion, we too need to take time to “ponder” God’s work and Word in our life. Find a few minutes to get away by yourself to read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20), and ask God to help you see the evidence of his fingerprints in your own life as you live out the role you’ve been called to play in his great story.

3. We all experience the hype of the Christmas advertising machine and the unmet expectations it often creates. One of the ways to keep Jesus in perspective as the “reason for the season” is remembering our need for a Savior and what he has done for us. Although normally read at Easter time, Isaiah 53 is a great overview of our need for a Savior and what Jesus did for us. Read the chapter and then spend some time talking to God about what you read.