

# NO CHRIST, NO CHRISTMAS

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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Christmas is a joining of "Christ" and "mass" which means the holy mass. It is a mass service called Communion or Eucharist when Jesus died for us, then came back to life. It is celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God—the Greatest gift from our Heavenly Father to us (Jn.3:16). Jesus came to give us love, hope and joy. Let us then be attentive to God's presence and action in our lives. Therefore, if there is no Christ in our hearts, there is no Christmas.

## The True Essence of Christmas:

**1. The Annunciation.** Angel Gabriel's announced to Mary that she would conceive a son when the Holy Spirit overshadows her. She agreed to the Lord's plan and conceived Jesus despite being a virgin. Mary teaches us to experience the joy of Christ and share it with others. Furthermore, we must be joyful, help others with love and mercy.

**2. The Courage of Elizabeth and Zechariah.** They were faithful Jews who were obedient to the Lord's commandments all their lives. Their childlessness had been seen by their community as a sign of God's dis-favor. By the grace of God, and despite their age, Elizabeth gave birth to her son, John the Baptist. Nothing is impossible with God (Matt.19:26). Let us be witnesses to our faith with the same courage.

**3. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth.** Elizabeth was expecting a son in her old age and was on her sixth month. Mary came to visit her. As Elizabeth greeted Mary with great joy as she was excited to meet Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Christmas is an an opportunity to meet the one we love. Let us prepare our hearts to meet the Lord.

**4. Angel's announcement to Joseph.** Joseph was faithful to God's law. He was kind and desired to protect Mary's reputation and save her from shame. He was a man of action, and followed the angel's instructions. He accepted Mary and Jesus into his

home with love and compassion. Like Joseph, let us strive to be righteous, faithful, kind, attentive, and compassionate so that we can make a home for Jesus in our heart.

**5. Our Mission.** God commanded us to continue His mission to preach the gospel to the whole creation (Matt.28:19-20). He commanded all of us to serve the world and to love our neighbors. Let us build deep and meaningful relationships with people we meet and treat them with care and respect. If there is joy in our heart, we are a Christmas to others.

**6. The Passion of Life.** Jesus was born in a manger. The King of Glory, the Son of God desired to be identified with the humble and the poor. The animals were the first to accept and experience the spirit of Christmas. These days, we enjoy gifts, food, decorations and parties in the celebration. It doesn't matter if we have a little or a lot. After all, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate gift: the birth of Jesus Christ.

## CONCLUSION:

The true meaning of Christmas is to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. We will only find the real joy of Christmas when we make the Savior the focus of the season. He came forth from heaven to live on earth as mortal man and to establish the kingdom of God. His glorious Gospel reshaped the thinking of the world. Let us remember that our true nature is of peace and harmony. Thus, let practice goodwill to all men not only during Christmas but throughout the entire year.

## REFLECTION:

What are the essences of the Christmas spirit in your life? How do you share the love of Jesus to the people you meet?

## SCRIBES MINISTRY

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