

Rest For A Weary Soul Daily Devotional - Thursday, December 21, 2006

Praise the Lord and Good Morning,

Yesterday morning as I attempted to complete this devotional I was met a computer issue. I couldn't stay logged on to my aol. I'd get so far into the devotional, only to get kicked off time and again. Unable to resolve the issue at that time, I had to wait until the evening to deal with the problem. So now I'm back in the swing of things...I wanted to talk about "what do you hear?".

Many people heard about Jesus' birth, but everyone reacted differently to the news. When Mary was still pregnant with Jesus, she went to Elisabeth's home and upon saying hello, Elisabeth's baby jumped and the Bible says she received the Holy Ghost! She began to minister to Mary about her situation. Mary and Elisabeth had church!!

The shepherds got word from an angel of God giving them good news and directions as to how to find Jesus. They got up and went and saw....and rejoiced!

And then there was King Herod....he'd heard about Jesus' birth through an inquiry from some wise men...they'd traveled from a far to worship Jesus, the King of the Jews....Herod was worried about his kingdom and position....so he plotted, or so he thought he did....that he would use these wise men to get them to show him where this Jesus was so he could kill him. (Matthew 2:1-7,16)

Jesus was sought out by all....some wanted to rejoice and worship while others wanted Jesus dead! Herod went so far as to have all children ages two and under killed in an effort to destroy Jesus....BUT it didn't work!

But I wonder today how many of us hear and respond with an attitude of indifference? How many of us only respond when we're in need? How many of us respond when conditions feel comfortable for worship? How many of us respond with seeking Him out to worship and rejoice? Mary and Joseph responded to Him at all points of their season....whatever they had to face, they did it with one thought....embracing Him....that's what it means to me to embrace the season.....did they want to have their son in a barn? Did they want to have to run from King Herod (Joseph was told of Herod's plans in a dream!) The Bible says that Mary kept all that happened in her heart...a mental diary of all that transpired to her son. And she thought about it....but they rolled with the punches and they saw in amazement the end result of their embrace.

The body of Christ needs no seasonal saints! We need to embrace Jesus and all He is throughout the year.....nothing wrong with refreshing...and what better time to be reignited to serve the One that made the season we're celebrating possible....

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch ^{FB} over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

In the Master's Service,

Pastor Michele D. Turner
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Matt 11:28-29 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.