

The Sounds of Christmas

Matthew 2:7-12; Luke 2:20

Intro: The right gift matters. You work hard to find the right gift.

If she is disappointed: no joy in the house!

If her face lights up: Joy in the house!

It matters how we give and how we receive!!!!

Hopefully, joyfully, and gratefully. Giving and receiving is what Xmas is all about.

Text: Wise men: a shout of praise when they saw the Star of Promise.

Offered a prayer of praise when they saw the star. JOY TO THE WORLD.

Shepherds: a shout of praise when they saw the promised baby. The long awaited messiah.
JOY TO THE WORLD!

*When we receive God's gift of salvation, we shout praise for it.

When we receive God's gift, what does it mean to us?

I. Our shout of praise is for the gift of forgiveness for our past sins.

Why all the prayers and praise over a baby boy? Forgiveness of sins.

There was suffering. That is why God came as a child.

To reverse Adam & Eve's choice of rebellion.

We have rebelled against God, broken His laws and will, Left God out of our lives. Yet God loved us into the stable in Bethlehem.

Jesus came to forgive us and give us new life! Worth a shout of praise.

God knew what He was doing when He made us.

Just because we make mistakes doesn't mean we are a mistake.

ILL. A cook book recalled! Left water out of a recipe.

Could explode in oven!!!

We must not leave Christ out of our lives!

II. Our shout of praise is for the gift of help for our present troubles.

Shepherds – suffering, sickness, frustration, despair, loneliness, doubt, and death.
Terrible existence.

Magi faced a long and unknown trip to find Christ. Very hard

Our lives are no different. Many things happen in our lives.

God works to bring us to Himself, even in the worst of times.

God moves in mysterious ways in our lives. His grace is real.

III. Our shout of praise is for the gift of hope for our future steps.

They clung to hope.

The magi would not stop until they found Christ. Very difficult.

The shepherds left their sheep and ran to find Christ.

The Messiah they had waited for so long!

Christmas told them their hope was not in vain.

God had not forgotten them.

God was in control of their world and they could pray a prayer of worship and shout a song of praise.

Christmas tells us that a light has come into the world that can never go out!

Conclusion: Befana's dilemma: Poem about the magi passing her house. Each of the three invited her to come. She had housework that had to be done. When she finished, she could not find the Christ Child. She waited too long and missed Him.

As we live life, we can do it confidently because we are in God's hands.

Will we seek Christ? Will we receive Christ? Will we follow Christ?