

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE

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DECEMBER 16, 2018

DON'T MISS CHRISTMAS!

Luke 2;1-15

As we have come into this Advent Season, I have built my messages around the Christmas theme. The first message was about “**Surviving The Christmas Holidays**”. Then last Sunday we spoke about “**A Christmas Gift From our Heavenly Father.**”

Today I'm going to preach about, “**Don't Miss Christmas**”. Whatever you do, don't miss Christmas! I'll explain what that's all about. We get that theme from **V-15** of our Scripture reading.

I don't know if you have read the book by **John Grisham**, “**Skipping Christmas**” or watched the film adapted from the book – “**Christmas with the Kranks**”. It is the rather hilarious story about a family that decided they would just quit Christmas and not have Christmas at their house. Here is the Plot:

Now dear one, it is one thing to skip Christmas as a choice you are going to make, but it is another thing to miss Christmas altogether. When you study the New Testament about the birth of the Lord and the different groups of people arranged around the story of the birth of Jesus, you will find that there were some people who missed Christmas in those days as well.

The **innkeeper** at the inn in Bethlehem when Jesus was born v-7 – speaks of the **crowded heart**.

Herod in **Matthew 2: 3,16** missed Christmas because he had a **callused heart**.

The religious **Scribes** who were in Jerusalem when the wise men came (**Matt. 2:4-5**) had **closed hearts** to the birth of Christ.

Let me preach to you about some groups who got in on the birth of Jesus and I hope it will help you and I get in on the birth of Jesus. Turn to **Matthew 2** and I want to talk about the wise men. They were:

I. THE SCHOLARLY PEOPLE

The word for **wise men** there is the **magi**, which means they were evidently Oriental astrologers. The Bible says when they **finally got to Bethlehem, in verse 11 they worshiped Him**.

Scholarly people came to the birth of Jesus. Let me share a second group with you. I want to talk about these shepherds in Luke 2. They were:

II. SIMPLE PEOPLE

When Jesus Christ came, He identified Himself with simple people. When Jesus was born, He was born into the family of Mary and Joseph, just common ordinary people. I think one of the greatest things ever said about the Lord Jesus Christ was, “The common people heard Him gladly.” That is a great compliment.

You know God loves ordinary people because He made so many of us. That **caviar crowd kind of makes me uneasy**. But **when you want to talk about corn bread and pinto beans and fried okra and all that, you are talking my language**.

Let me show you a man that represents the third group who didn't miss Christmas in **verse 25, of Luke 2**. God had revealed to this man Simeon that he would not die before he would see the Savior **V-26**.]

Verse 27 says that God's Holy Spirit led him into the temple one day and when the parents brought in the child Jesus.

Who does Simeon represent?

III. THE SPIRITUAL PEOPLE

Spiritual people don't miss Christmas. They always know what Christmas is all about. Like Simeon was waiting for the first coming of Jesus, the **spiritual group today is waiting for the second coming of Jesus**. God revealed to Simeon that he wasn't going to die until he saw the Savior.

Are you prepared to die? **Don't miss Christmas**. It's only when you come to Christ that you are prepared to die.