

12/24/21

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Christmas Eve Message / Advent Lessons

This Advent we heard from 4 perspectives in the Bible who witnessed amazing things. We heard from Joseph, a nameless shepherd, Belteshazzar the Wise, and Simeon the righteous.

Each of these individuals taught us something valuable for us to incorporate into our lives. Let me remind you of what we learned.

Joseph demonstrated how he listened to instruction as an example for us is to listen to what God would have us do. Jesus as a new born baby needed his earthly father to protect, watch over and provide for Him. Joseph's success was that he listened and was obedient. Listening and obeying seem to be fast going out of fashion, but if you want the blessings from God in heaven that nothing can take away, then learn the lesson of Joseph, **to Listen and to Obey.**

The next week of Advent we heard from the Shepherd. Shepherds were those people that do a job that is not glorified or thought well of, but they were spoken to be a Holy Angel of the Lord and the multitude of the host of Heaven. They learned by this experience what it truly means to praise God with the awe of such a tremendous gift as Christ, who would save us all. When you can learn to feel the joy knowing that the creator of all things loves us this much, then day to day battles, failures, or being a person not well respected will have no power over you any longer. Praising God in the purity of one's spirit is like no other. We must remember **this Christmas, do not leave out praising God.**

Then of course the Wiseman from the East, Belteshazzar 7 the wise, spoke about something else that is profound. He taught us about perseverance, in both good times and bad. For close to 500 years the Magi from lands of Chaldea kept the faith and past on the knowledge given to them and prophecy of when the Messiah, would come. When they discovered where he would be born in Bethlehem they followed that same sign, The STAR, to find Jesus and present him with gifts. Perseverance is vital to the Christian faith. You can't engage and disengage at will. Those whose faith when tested, demonstrate their commitment by staying the course. **This Christmas we are reminded to keep on persevering.**

Finally we heard from Simeon the righteous. He was blessed by being able to see, hold and proclaim Christ. Though none of us are perfect, those who strive to seek God are considered to be righteous and before this aged man passed away, he saw the redemption of man and held the young baby in his arms. He praised God and knew then that his commitment yielded the best of Gifts, our Savior Jesus Christ. When we do good things, live holy lives, lives peaceably with one another and follow God's holy laws, then joy isn't a fleeting thing. **The best present we can give ourselves is righteous living.**

So, this Christmas lets listen and obey, praise God for this tremendous gift of Jesus Christ, persevere through all the trials and difficulties that this life gives us, and live a life of righteousness as a testimony to our faith.

God bless you all this Christmas and be filled with his joy and peace.

AMEN