

## **NLC Christmas Eve 2019**

### **"Peace"**

**December 22-24th, 2019**

#### **Intro & Welcome:**

- **It's Christmas, the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, but every once in a while, it doesn't feel that way, does it???**
- **Funny Opener... HAVE YOU EVER HAD "IRRATIONAL XMAS ANGER?"**
  - **You know you're being ridiculous, but you kinda can't help it?!?**
  - **MWK - A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO...**
    - **Why are there so many cars on Daniels Pkwy?**
    - **Why do the Sprinklers smell so horrible?**
    - **Why are there so many people in line at Starbucks?**
    - **Why can't my coffee stay hot longer?**
    - **Why is my favorite football team so bad this year?**
    - **Why is there a strand of lights out already on my house?**
- **Before we know it, nothing is right!!!**
  - **Before we know it, we're down a rabbit hole that is less than God's best for our lives!**
    - **& we've totally lost our perspective & joy & more importantly... we've lost our Peace!!!**
  - **? Anybody ever done that???**
    - **No? Just me? Right!!!**
- **We live in an Uptight World, don't we?**
  - **A world that lacks time & perspective & joy & grace & happiness...**
  - **& instead is completely weighed down by worry & strife & politics & bad news & chaos & lines & stress & fear & anger.**
- **Our world is in desperate need of peace!!!**
  - **You know... Our World sounds eerily similar to the world Jesus came into 2000 years ago on that first Christmas!**
- **the beginning of the Christmas story says this...**

Luke 1:1-3 "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register."

v. 4-5 " Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David"

v. 5-6 "to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

v. 7 "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

- ??? Did you catch what's going on here???

- The whole reason Mary & Joseph had to go to Bethlehem was b/c some corrupt Gov't was raising taxes & was making everyone go to their Hometown!

- There was Oppression on every side!

- There was Political Unrest & Distrust!

- There was Racial Tension all over the country!

- There was Wide-Spread Fear of not knowing what was coming next!

- The world Jesus stepped into was anything but Peaceful!

- And yet, Jesus came into THAT world!!!

- He came to heal the world of sin & to offer the world a different way to live in the midst of everything they were facing!!!

- Jesus came to offer the World the Gift of Peace!!!

- More Personally: Jesus has come to Offer US the Gift of Peace!!!

- But we've all had Offers that "seemed too good to be true," haven't we???

- MIGHTY BITE - FISHING LURE BAIT ILL.

- The guy sounded credible enough, he looked like a fishing guy
- & they offered to Double my Order at no additional charge!!!

- 28 YEARS AGO - FOR ME

- So many of us too!

- The Message of Christmas is that Jesus Offers the World Peace!!!

- Hebrew: **SHALOM.** - "Nothing Missing, Nothing Broken."

- ? How can we have the Peace / Shalom of God when...? (Keep repeating...)

- We live in a world where so much is Missing & so much is Broken???

- Broken at Home

- Our dad is Absent from our home & we are struggling so much?

- Love is Missing & Anger & Hate rage!

- We have so much Anxiety on the inside.

- Joy is missing & Alcohol & drug abuse is taking it's place.

- Grace is missing & Mud Slinging & Stone throwing abound.

- Life is missing & Loss is all we can think about & feel.

- Sickness has come & worry is all we sense.

- That's why Jesus came!!! To Offer us Peace!!!

Isaiah 9:6 " For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

- He came to be our Prince of Peace!!!

- He came to bring "Peace for all & good will toward all men!!!"

- He came to bring us the "Gift of Peace."

- EXPLAIN GIFT: We actually have a gift for you this Christmas, so while Aaron sings this next song, our team is going to be bringing it to you.

AARON'S SONG...

*"Peace for all, good will toward men;*

*My Savior's come, his rule will never end..."*

- Distribute the Gifts during the song!

- At the end of Jesus' life, after He had been crucified & raised from the dead, He was about to leave this earth & ascend to be with His Heavenly Father, He said...

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

- Jesus didn't promise us a Smooth & Easy Life, but He did promise us His Peace!!!

Listen to this promise:

Philippians 4:7 " And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

- GUARD ILL - Nothing gets in!!!

? So what do we do?

? How do we respond to an invitation like this?

**1. Come.**

Matthew 11:28 " "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

- This is what the shepherds did that first Christmas!

- They followed the star & they "came" to where Jesus was!

**2. Cast.**

I Peter 5:7 " Cast all your anxiety (cares) on him for He cares for you."

1) LEAVE IT...

- LEAVING MY JACKET UNDER THE CHAIR IN AUSTRALIA ILL.

- Leave your cares & worries under your chair!!!

2) LEAVE WITH...

- The Peace of God!!!

- Your token represents the Peace of God for you this Xmas!!!
- More than a token is peace in your heart.

**ALTAR CALL:**

- SALVATION
- PRAY

## **OUTLINE:**

**MOST WONDERFUL - IRR ANGER**

**UPTIGHT WORLD**

**SOUNDS LIKE 2000**

**LUKE 1:1-7 OPP, POL. RACIAL FEAR**

**OFFER**

**MIGHTY BITE**

**SHALOM - HOW? - LIST**

**ISAIAH 9:6**

**GIFT / SONG**

**JOHN 14:27**

**PHIL. 4:7**

**WHAT?**

**1. COME.**

**2. CAST.**

**LEAVE IT - AUSTRALIAH**

**LEAVE WITH PEACE**

**ALTAR CALL**

- So much is Missing & so much is Broken?
- Broken at Home
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