

Dec 30th 2012 When Christmas Is Over Luke 2:8-20 (v19)

No doubt for most...when Christmas is over....heap of things to do..
Bills.....Can be a lot of mess.....And sometimes.....damaged relationships

For Mary.....post-Christmas night.....meant a time for thinking
Luke tells us that the Shepherds.....incredible stories about angels
And esp....they told Mary &...what they had been told about..

Look at Luke 2:11

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Now imagine you are Mary...a new mum....being told that about.....
If you check back....messages given to her..**Definitely** told...child...special
But there was no mention....being the Christ....

And Mary's reaction is recorded in v19

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

The word treasured means to store....to keep
Pondered means to meditate upon....to think strongly about
Heart.....emphasizes....how deep her thoughts went

After Christmas Day.....Mary did....a lot of deep thinking

What about us?

How much deep thinking about Christ and us...Prepared to commit...to doing
Now Christmas is over

Let me suggest this morning....that we spend time.....pondering 4 P's

The Power of Christmas: The thought or feeling that touched you...this...
More than anything.....

It may have been.....said.....Written.....Felt....Saw
That you know now...was God touching your heart with His power
Changing your thinking
Encouraging your love.....
Calling forth your obedience

If you sensed God touching your spirit...with power this.....
THEN don't lose it.....**Write it** down.....diary....journal....calendar....
So that such a moment....message.....connection....**never forgotten**

The Purpose of Christmas

Think anew this morning....God's purpose for you.....**As** you move on from...
Into a new year....

No doubt it was...the purpose of.....that exercised Mary's mind and heart....
But God still has a purpose for each of us too.....and at Christmas
When we focus on His sacrificial love....**He delights**....to give us
A new sense of purpose...in....mission for Him

The Potential of Christmas

For Mary that potential...was immense...**and** she was to be an agent of that
For the rest of her life

For the world the Potential.....is still as great....

For your friends.....your loved ones....the people you will meet
The potential is also great.....And you are an agent too

You know the potential of Christmas.....How can you make that known to other??

Finally the Practicality of Christmas

You ever wondered what the spirit of Christmas is for the Christian?

→**Well....everything that comes from the Christ...seen in Him....**

The spirit of love.....of giving.....of humility....of sacrifice.....of caring

These things should not stop at Christmas

They should be a practical part of the rest of our lives

What will you do to extend the spirit of.....

What practical steps....make that happen?

Send cards.....

Pray for the opportunity...random acts of kindness.....**for** the Christ of

Dedicate yourself to looking at people diff....**because** of the way God...

....looked at this world in love....and came at Christmas to save...

I think back today...story of the woman...restaurant...baby hugged by that tramp.....

By that experience....her outlook was changed

She acknowledged her need...to show the love behind....Christmas to all...

And she set out to do so

What about us?