

Message: ***"Is Christmas Too Costly?"***

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12
(12-22-24 Pastor Tony Hao)

What about the first Christmas? Was it costly? It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home during a journey to Bethlehem. It cost the shepherds the neglect of the shepherd's life for a journey to Bethlehem to see the thing the Lord had made known to them. It cost the wise men a long journey, expensive gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What did Christmas cost God the Father? It cost Him more than all, for it cost the Father His Son. What did Christmas cost Jesus? It cost him a life of sacrifice and service; a cruel death unmatched in history. Is Christmas too costly?

Christmas isn't too costly if we seek God's gift; if we experience forgiveness of sins; if we express the joy; if we extend peace and goodwill; if we proclaim the Good News. Christmas isn't too costly when we truly and fully experience the Christ of Christmas.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. No one understands the first Christmas until he experiences the love of God in Christ. Is your heart filled with love, the genuine love of God in Christ?
2. Joy filled the hearts of the shepherds who heard the good news from the hillside. Joy filled the hearts of Simeon and Anna in the temple as they realized the significance of the child for the world. Joy filled the hearts of the wise men when they saw his star and when they presented their gifts. Does it for you?
3. There is no room for bitterness at Christmas. Christmas is the time for peace and goodwill. If we have been recipients of God's goodwill, shouldn't we have goodwill toward God and others?
4. The greatest privilege that can come to any of us is to share our knowledge of the Lord with those who do not know him. This can be done through our witnessing efforts, our soul-winning efforts, and our mission program. Would you make this Christmas meaningful by sharing the Good News?