



Luke 2:1-14

You've all heard of this programme on TV and some of you watch it regularly. It's a quiz show based on the week's news. Here's an excerpt from last year's Christmas show where the teams have to identify a mystery picture.

JAPANESE PPRESENTS

Another favourite is the Odd One out Round. Here's a couple for you by way of a Christmas Quiz

INKEEPER, CAMEL, DONKEY, STAR OF BETHLEHEM Odd one out is the Star of Bethlehem as the others aren't mentioned in the Bible.

ANN WIDDECOMBE, KIM JONG-IL, THE WISE MEN, JEREMY CLARKSON – Kim as all the rest have visited Bethlehem.

Speaking of Bethlehem here's our MISSING WORDS round for this morning. What are the missing words from this morning's quote from the Bible passage? MISSING WORDS QUOTE *I am here with good news for you* FULL QUOTE

Or in other words, the angel appeared and said "HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU!" If you were wondering what the connection was between the TV programme and today then here it is.

- Break -

Christmas Day is a GOOD NEWS DAY! I'm sure that we're going to find that today is full of good news. Give me a cheer if this applies to you.

PRESENTS

RELATIVES COMING or not coming!

NON-DIET DAY

DR WHO SPECIAL

SHOPS ARE CLOSED

GOOD NEWS DAY

Today is a good news day because of that day 2000 years ago when the angels brought good news to the SHEPHERDS. Let's remind ourselves of the words again: *"Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born--Christ the Lord!*

God was giving the human race a gift – His Son. GOOD NEWS But the gift wasn't a baby, it was the man that the baby grew into. Why did God give His Son to the world? Here's my favourite Christmas verse again: JOHN 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

That's the real good news of Christmas, the God loved each of us so much that He sent His only Son because He wanted us all to receive another gift - eternal life - knowing God for the whole of eternity. Jesus died so that all the things that separate us from God - the things that we do wrong that keep us from God, our sins - can be forgiven and God can offer us life eternally with Him.

What sorts of things separate us from God? - things that are wrong - that we know are wrong, ignoring God, doing our thing, guilt, resentment, anger. Jesus died so that we could find a way open to God, if we are prepared to believe Him, trust Him, follow Him.

If you've never done that then take the opportunity to receive the greatest Christmas present you've ever had - God Himself, to know His presence with you now and have a hope of eternal life for the future.

My Lord and my God.
I have lived life my way.
I have done many wrong things.
I turn away from all my sin.
Please forgive me.
Lord Jesus, I trust you now to be my Lord and my Saviour.
Thank You for dying in my place.
I ask You now for Your gift of eternal life.
I give my life to You and want You to be my Lord.
Help me to live for You by the power of Your Holy Spirit.
These things I pray in Jesus' name.
Amen

If we already trust and follow Jesus then today is a reminder to us that we have much to rejoice and worship God for. Let's give God thanks for that gift of life we've received and share it with others as we celebrate this Christmas time!

Prayer

*Preached by Mark Reid
Christmas Day 2010 MRBC Felixstowe
© Mark Reid 2010*

Christmas Blessing

"May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
May the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever."
Amen