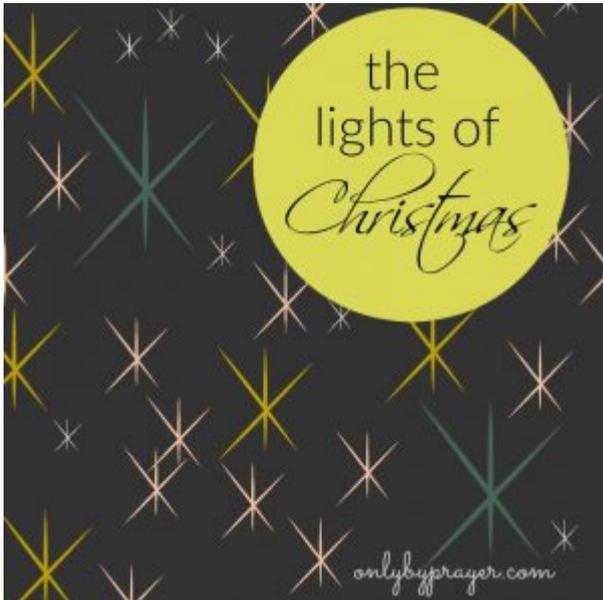


The Lights of Christmas



The Lights of Christmas

In the dusk of a December evening, my car crunches down the icy roads. I look forward to this every year. I used to drive with two excited kids in the car. Munching cookies. Caroling our hearts out. A Christmas tradition long kept. Now my sons are grown and gone so I keep the faith by myself. Still excited. Still blessed by the lights of Christmas.

15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:15-17

It's like a treasure hunt.

Who still believes? Who still keeps the light of Christmas burning in their heart, twinkling on the eaves and door frames of their houses? Sparkling displays of an inner faith of the Immanuel King, born in a manger in the dark of a winter eve.

Dark streets offer no hope.

No lights. No love. No life. Where is Jesus in this darkness? Those who have no Christmas lights of their own can only see from afar the lights of their neighbors. Reflected glory. Borrowed joy. Maybe Christmas lights burning strong, true and beautiful will cause others to ask, wonder, reflect and accept.

Light your candles. Trim your trees. Maybe the people asking *why the lights?* will then ask *why the cross?*

"4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." 1 John 1:4-5

Merry Cross-mas.

Merry Christmas.

Mary Kane

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**Christmas To Do-ers List:
Watch for Him, Part 3**



Remember to keep your eyes and heart open for Jesus today. He is constantly speaking to you through your circumstances, His word, others, radio preachers, music, His creation, etc. Keep your eyes on Him! Please read the scripture below and leave a comment on what you learned about watching for Jesus.

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

- 1 *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*
- 2 *Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*
- 3 *Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,*
- 4 *but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*
- 5 *But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*
- 6 *"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'*

7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed i' . ' .



8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

He is coming. Watch for Him.

Mary Kane

"Blue Letter Bible – Mat 25: Gospel of Matthew 25 (Blue Letter Bible: NKJV – New King James Version)." Blue Letter Bible. Web. 7 Dec, 2015.

<<http://www.blueletterbible.org>https://www.blueletterbible.org/nkjv/mat/25/1/p1/s_954001>.