

Christmas To Do-ers List, Day 4: Shine for Him



Christmas To Do-ers List

Day 4: Shine for Him

*"We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."
Matthew 2:2*

I awoke to the inky blackness of an unfamiliar room. I was traveling, sleeping in a room that had darkening shades. A smothering blackness engulfed me as I groped for the little flashlight I put next to my bed. Switching on the button, I breathed a little easier as the features of the room came into focus. Amazing how one tiny light can penetrate the darkness.

Star Light, Star Bright

In the Christmas story, a bright star illuminating the night sky spark a years-long search for some astrologers. Three

wisemen from a distant land notice a new, bright star in the sky and they search for answers to this phenomenon. They learn that this star signifies the birth of a new king, and they set aside everything else in their lives to follow the star. Every evening the light of the star guides them, it's bright presence a constant source of direction and comfort and promise on their long journey through unfamiliar territory and uncertainty.



At long last they arrive to see the full power of the star shining directly on the little family. Overwhelmed, they place their gifts at the feet of the new King and worship Him.

As Jesus grew, it was apparent something was different about Him. People were drawn to Him. The scriptures tell us that it wasn't because he had rock-star looks. Isaiah 53:3 makes this clear: "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him."

I like to think that it was the light of God shining through Him that drew others. He had a polarizing effect, much the same today: you either loved Him or you hated Him. Those that let themselves get close enough to Him recognized His absolute love of and care for others.

We are Now the Torch Bearers

With the death and Resurrection of Jesus, God now wants us to be His light in a dark world. Are we comfortable shining for

Him, or do we hide our light under a bushel basket? Let's consider some ways we can shine for Christ:

Action Points:

1. We can ask the Holy Spirit to fill us up each day and then listen to how he directs our words and actions. Being obedient to His direction will help us to better love and minister to others. (John 14:26).
2. We can learn about spiritual gifts. Read 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11,12 for a list of some of the gifts. God wants us to use these to benefit others and by developing our gifts, we will certainly be letting our light shine.
3. Don't underestimate the power of a daily time spent in the word combined with prayer. As we become transformed into His image, as we go about the normal activities of our days, His spirit will shine through us.

Never think that your gifts or life is too small or ordinary to make a difference. Just as the tiny flashlight beside my bed brought the whole room into clear focus,

[the light of your life may be exactly what brings Jesus into focus for a family member, friend, or stranger.](#)

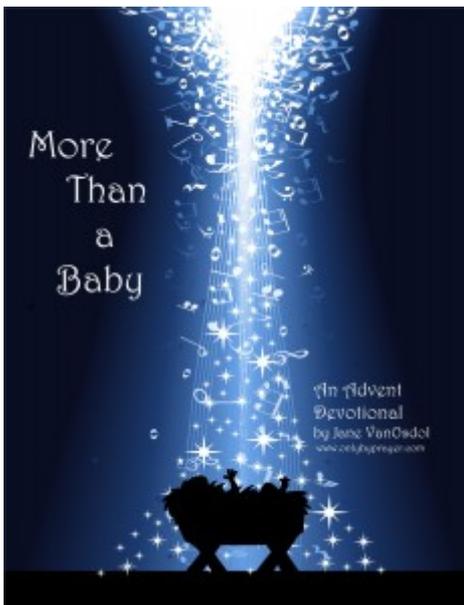


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Please share your thoughts in the comment section and/or on our [To Do-ers Facebook](#) page. Enjoy today's music *The Star Still Shines* as you reflect on the lesson.

Jane

Advent Devotional Friday, December 20, 2013



In today's **Advent Devotional**, we look at the story of the Magi and their search to find the new King. What can we learn from them in the **Christmas** story?

If you'd like a bit of background about **Advent**, please read [Day One's](#) entry. Keep persevering in your desire to draw closer to God during this season of Advent.

To read today's entry about the Magi, simply click on the link below.

[Advent Devotional Friday, December 20, 2013](#)

Something to Celebrate

O Come Let us Adore Him



These words have been ringing through my mind today as Christmas draws near, and it's more than the obvious reason that I've heard this Christmas carol on the radio or that Christmas is only five days away. Much more. **God has been readjusting my vision this Christmas.**

Christmas 2011 will be a different Christmas for us. It's the first Christmas that we won't have both of our children with us. For the past 23 years, the four of us have always been together to celebrate. We have our traditions, our special things that we do together as a family to welcome Christmas Day. They're very much a part of what makes Christmas Christmas for me. Maybe too much so?

As many of you know, our son Jesse is on a walk across America to raise money for the burn center at Riley Hospital for Children where he was a patient in June of 2010. Three months ago when Jesse decided to do this walk, I thought surely he couldn't be meaning to miss Thanksgiving, his birthday and Christmas. Could he? When I asked Jesse this over the phone, he said, "Mom, how is that going to look if I fly home for Christmas when people are sponsoring me, and I'm supposed to be walking across America?"

The reality that I knew was coming but had been avoiding thinking about had arrived. With the certainty that Jesse would not be home and possibly not Amber either as she now has her fiancé and his family to consider for Christmas plans, I was forced to look at where I was getting my real joy for Christmas from. Was my joy coming from my perfect plans all going according to schedule, or was it from the gift of Jesus in my life?

As I have had to adjust my perception of celebrating Christmas, God has been shifting my focus to where it should be. The priceless gift of having Jesus as my King is coming clearly into focus. **To know that He is with me each day in the nitty-gritty good-and-bad that makes up my life is what God is showing me I should be celebrating.**

I'm wondering what your Christmas will look like. Maybe you're struggling through a painful divorce. Perhaps you're hooked up to a chemo IV. Or maybe you're blessed this year to have all of your family with you. Whatever your life is or wherever you are this year, Jesus is there. And that's Something to celebrate.

O Come let us adore Him ...

Pray on!