

Series: “An Incredible Christmas Recipe”

Title: “His Presence” Pt 5

Text: Luke 1:31-33, 2:8-20

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Luke 2:8-14 “And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

Matthew 28:20 (Jesus) “Behold I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Luke 17:20-21 "...He answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is! Or 'There!' for behold, the Kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'"

Luke 11:28-30 (Jesus) "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

LOOK IN:

1. When and/or where in your life has God worked clearly and powerfully that you've been moved to treasuring those memories and pondering them?
2. What's the most difficult part for you when circumstances demand you trust God even if He doesn't seem involved or interested in what you're going through?
3. What helps you trust that God is still at work even when you can't see what He's doing? Does anything in this message help with that, giving you comfort or encouragement?
4. Has there been a time this past year when the memory of God's faithfulness (either as you've read about it in the Bible or as you've experienced it directly) impacted your life?