1960

Speak to Us of Christmas

John G. Davies

Iowa State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol40/iss5/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Speak To You
How often we miss the real meaning of Christmas. Oh, we observe all the customs. We sing all the carols. We read all the Gospel accounts. We attend all the church services. Yet, we miss the real meaning of Christmas. The reason is a simple one: we take this all as a pleasant tale of once long ago, and forget what it says to us today. We see only the shepherds, the wisemen, Mary, Joseph, and the infant in the manger and forget that they are not the main characters in the Christmas drama at all. The main character is God!

The real and abiding joy of Christmas is that at the center of this life of ours there lives and reigns a God like Jesus Christ. A God who, having put the stars in their courses and having created humanity to reflect His nature, comes to dwell with us and share the joys and sorrows of our life. In His love and mercy He enters His creation through a child born in a stable in Bethlehem to meet the unmet needs of the human soul in the matters of life and death that threaten to overcome us.

How hard this is to comprehend — that an infinite, all-powerful, omniscient God should enter history in the form of a helpless infant. What a paradoxical combination of strength and weakness, power and helplessness. Yet, it is precisely this combination that makes Christmas such a joyous time. For God could have manifested Himself as a God of power and overthrown all those who stood against Him. He could have come as a totalitarian dictator and taken away our freedom and forced us to live as He ordered or be punished. His could have come in a way that would have put fear and terror in every heart and made men tremble before His throne of judgment. But the joyous news of Christmas is that God didn’t choose to reveal himself in this way, for this is not His nature. He chose, rather, to reveal Himself as a gracious Father who, having given man life, comes to share it with him, that by the power of His love He might transform and redeem every dimension of that life.

Really, Christmas is the visitation of God to the human soul. It is the discovery that ours is a God who so loves us that He comes to share all that is ours, that we might receive all that is His. He is a God who pours Himself out in love; who understands, cares, and acts to fulfill our lives. This is true not only at Christmas-time, but every day of the year. When we discover this deeper truth about Christmas, we realize why all history is numbered backwards and forwards from the birth of Christ. For His birth was the event in which God made His climactic step and revealed how much He cares for each of us. This love has never changed.

God still comes to each of us. He comes as one who has shared our birth, our life, our joys, our sorrows, our pains, our disappointments, and our death. He comes as the only one who has ever conquered death. He comes to make our lives what they were created to be, that we might know all the fullness of His purpose. But He forces no one to accept His love or His way. We must prepare Him room. We must sense the wonder of His love and let it flow through our lives. When we do, we, too, will discover the real joy and peace of Christmas.