



"Christmas: The Rest of the Story" - December 2023

Thoughts to Ponder

1. On the last weekend of 2023, the world is shouting that Christmas is over.
 - a. What remnants of Christmas might one find in your house? In you?
 - b. Why do you think Christmas decorations still adorn our historic church the weekend after Christmas?

2. Herod ruled the Bethlehem and Jerusalem area when Jesus was born; his cruel and suspicious nature caused his subjects to despise him.
 - a. How would you describe your nature and how people feel about you?
 - b. How would others describe your nature and how you feel about them?

3. The Wise Men traveled far in search of the newborn “king of the Jews.”
 - a. Have you ever inconvenienced yourself in search of Jesus? If so, please explain the how and why of your most challenging endeavor. If not, what does that say about you?
 - b. Upon finding the Christ Child, they humbled themselves before Him and made an offering. Describe an occasion on which you knowingly humbled yourself before Christ and willingly sacrificed for the Gospel.

4. Jesus said: “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)
 - a. How does that statement apply to you? What’s the source of your light?
 - b. What are you illuminating for others to see that might remain hidden in darkness were it not for your efforts?

5. Jesus said: “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)
 - a. Good deeds do not save us . . . what does?
 - b. Jesus went about doing good; many Christians are content to just go about . . . are you one of them?

