

Are You Too Busy for a Savior?

One of the most popular songs of the Christmas season is "Silver Bells." It begins with the familiar words "City sidewalks, busy sidewalks." It pictures people running to the stores to get what they think they need for Christmas. What are the sounds you hear that accompany Christmas? It may be a lot of music that includes silver bells, and choirs, and children singing. Other sounds include commercials for products we simply must buy for Christmas. What sounds would we have heard in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago? If we could listen closely, we would hear a lot of sounds. The sounds of a lot of people in town and a busy inn. Maybe we could have heard the angels singing or have heard excited shepherds coming to town to see a baby. If we listened real close we might even have heard a mother out in a stable singing a soft lullaby. But to hear it, we would have to purposefully listen.

This is my concern. You might become so overwhelmed by the noises of Christmas, that you cannot hear the sounds of that first Christmas night you really ought to hear. They are sounds that say, "God loves me. God really does love me. Jesus made me the reason for the season." We can hear God's love over the world's noise this month if we so desire. Back then, like now, there may be reasons why we can't hear the message of love. 1. We have become too familiar with God. We have lost our sense of awe in the presence of God to the point where we no longer know how to worship Him. 2. We are too busy due to possessions. 3. We are too busy due to activities. 4. We are too busy due to family. Yes, we are to love our families, but they don't come before God.

There's too much noise today. Christmas has become as much a celebration of community as it has a celebration of faith. More people will set up a Christmas tree than will attend a worship service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. What are you hearing today? God's gift of hope, 2,000 years ago, is the same gift of hope today. Christmas doesn't depend upon presents or trees or tinsel or lights. Christmas depends on a God of love who loves the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son to come and live among us and die for us.

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