

Peace on Earth | Week #05

Do You See What I See? | December 27th, 2020

Anchor Verse: Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased. Luke 2:14

So, what's the problem?

We often depend on the adrenaline rush of a _____ to carry us to the next _____.

We are sabotaged or even addicted to the BIG, the MORE, the LOUD, the BRIGHT and have a less developed appreciation for the _____, the _____, the _____, the _____ and the _____.

We suffer from PTSD: Post Traumatic _____ Disorder

Isaiah 40:31: But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will SOAR on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

The Point: Everyday peacemakers _____ to the beauty of Christmas and then _____ that awakening in their normal everyday lives.

What wisdom does scripture offer us?

1) The Beauty of _____

Matthew 1:18: This is how the birth of Jesus the MESSIAH came about...

Luke 2:11: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the MESSIAH, the Lord.

Topics the title MESSIAH is connected to: appointed for a special task, the bearer of burdens and sin, the cut off one, humble, the just judge, prince of peace, promoting righteous humility, reliever of distress, servant of God, son of man, victorious king, expectation of his arrival, his just reign, his suffering, his preexistence, justice for the oppressed.

2) The Beauty of _____

- Matthew 1:18: ...His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
- Luke 1:34-35: "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."

All pregnancies have a certain _____ beauty. But Mary's pregnancy has a _____, _____ beauty all its own.

Every time we see a pregnant woman—_____ the beauty of that new life—and then _____ and remember the mysterious beauty of Mary's pregnancy.

3) The Beauty of _____

- Matthew 1:19: Joseph...did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

4) The Beauty (and _____!) of Glory

- Luke 2:9: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

How do we respond to beauty? All beauty _____ to God.

- Luke 2:13-14: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."
- Luke 2:20: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.
- Matthew 2:11: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

The natural response to the beauty of the Christ Child is _____.

How do we experience beauty in our everyday lives?

- 1) _____ to the Beauty.
- 2) _____ the Beauty.
- 3) _____ the Beauty.

What is God inviting me into today?

Everyday peacemakers AWAKEN to the Beauty of Christmas and then POINT OUT and DRAW OUT that Beauty in their normal everyday lives.

- Light a candle every day during this 12 Days (beautiful)
- Throw an Epiphany party next Sunday
- Sign up for the 12 Days of Christmas daily video devotions
- Sign up for the Work of Christmas Webinar (tomorrow evening)
- This week I will turn in my pledge for the 2021 Peace is Worth It! ministry emphasis.

Thought Provoking Questions For Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

- 1) How have you experienced the Christmas Crash this year or in years past?
- 2) In what ways do you suffer from PTSD (Post Traumatic Soaring Disorder)? Tell about a time when you experienced this. What are the long-term effects of this in your life?
- 3) As you reflect on the biblical Christmas story, what are some of the most beautiful moments in that story?
- 4) What can you do on a daily basis to help awaken yourself to beauty? Which sense (seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, smelling) needs the most awakening?
- 5) What is one of the most beautiful things you have experienced this Christmas?
- 6) Tell about a time when someone has pointed out or drawn out beauty.
- 7) Take a moment to thank God for a something beautiful in your life.