

The Sounds of Christmas

Luke 2:1-20

Let's consider the night of Christ's birth. Isn't it interesting that "*the Light of the World*" was born in the night.

One thing I enjoy about the Christmas season is Christmas music. During this time of the year Christmas songs are on the radio... in shopping malls... sung by carolers, and in church services. I like it all!

With all the Christmas songs played during this time, I began to wonder—What is the most popular Christmas carol of all time. So I googled it and discovered the number one Christmas carol is "*Silent Night*." *TIME* magazine researched the records at the U.S. Copyright Office and found that "*Silent Night*" has 733 copyrighted recordings since 1978. "*Joy to the World*" was a distant second with 391 recordings.

I like the song "*Silent Night*," but I question some of its lyrics. The song begins: "Silent Night. Holy Night. All is calm. All is bright." I don't want to spoil this beautiful Christmas carol for anyone, but the Bible's account Christ's birth indicates the night Jesus was born was **anything but silent and anything but calm**.

➡[READ TEXT]

➡The subject of my sermon is "***The Night Was Anything But Silent.***"

I. The STABLE was anything but silent.

- A. It was not a silent night **for Joesph**. Was he perfectly calm?
 - 1. What was going through his mind, knowing he was not the father of this child being born of Mary?
 - 2. His life was literally turned upside down! Christ's birth would turn the world upside down! How could he be calm?
 - 3. When Christ comes into a person's life, their life will never be the same!
- B. It was not a silent night **for Mary**.
 - 1. Most births are accompanied by a mother's travailing cries of labor pangs. Travailing in giving birth is a result of sin (Gen. 3:16), reminding us Jesus was born to take away sin.

2. A woman travailing in giving birth is also associated with Christ's second coming as labor pangs intensity (Isa. 13:6-8; 1 Thess. 5:3).

C. It was not a silent night **for the baby Jesus!** The cry of a new born baby was heard! Sheep in the stable that had been quiet began lowing with sounds of curiosity.

II. **The SKIES were anything but silent** (vs. 10-14).

- We sing "*Hark, the HERALD Angels SING!*"
- A. Contrary to the world's apathetic attitude towards the birth of Christ, the heavenly host was anything but nonchalant about this momentous event! There has never been another birth like it!
- B. When a baby is born to a family, that family is usually are very vocal about it—They are not bashful about letting everyone know! Birth announcements are sent out— "It's A Boy /Girl!"
- C. God is not any different. His angels witnessed the birth with awe and wonder. They announced the news— "*Unto you is born this day in the city of David, A SAVIOUR, which is CHRIST THE LORD.*" A multitude of the heavenly host PRAISED GOD— "*Glory to God in the highest!!!*" The night was anything but silent!

III. **The SHEPHERDS were anything but silent.**

- The shepherds were anything but calm (vs. 9).
- After hearing the glad tidings "*they came with HASTE*" (v. 16). The first "Christmas rush." It was anything but calm!
- A. Their speaking was EXTENSIVE— "*...they made known abroad the saying...*"
 1. They couldn't keep the good news to themselves—The long awaited Messiah has come!. They were anything but silent!
 2. They had to spread the word. They made known abroad the saying. They woke people up in the middle of the night.
- B. Their speaking was EXACT— "*...the saying which was told them concerning this child.*"

- C. Their speaking was EFFECTIVE—*“And all that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”*
- D. Their speaking was EXCITING—*“They returned glorifying and praising God”* (v. 20)

SUMMATION: How can we who know Jesus be silent about Him?

I think one of our problems as Christians is, we are TOO SILENT about Jesus when we should be bold about speaking of Him! How can we be silent about all the Lord has done for us!

We may question our own faith in Christ... who He is... what He has done, if we remain silent about Him or have no joy in speaking boldly about Him!

The late Dan Adkins, who sang in our church several years ago, collaborated in writing the song, *“The Night Was Anything But Silent.”* It was later recorded by Jonathan White and Shiloh. Some of the lyrics:

The heavens rang—The angels sang—Echoing the glad refrain.

The night was anything but silent!

Songs of hope were everywhere—Joyful praises filled the air!

That night was anything but silent.

Music filled the earth, Proclaiming Christ's holy birth.

That night was anything but silent.

Shepherds came to see the Lord, then went out to spread the word.

That night was anything but silent!

- The angels were not silent? Why should we be silent?
- The shepherds were not silent? Why should we remain silent?