

What Does Christ Think of Christmas?

Each year as I approach Christmas, I brace myself for the rigorous schedule. I think of the huge investments of time and energy. I quietly wonder if, spiritually speaking, we're really getting our money's worth out of all this. What does Christ think of our Christmas celebrations anyway? How much of it is even pleasing to Him?

Remember that He is the One who saw straight through empty words and ceremony. He was absolutely ruthless toward such "praise." His quotation of Isaiah 29:13 still rings in my ears:

*These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
They worship me in vain. (Matthew 15:8-9, NIV)*

When the disciples were impressed by the beauty of the Temple, Jesus spoke God's displeasure and foretold its complete destruction. He was vehement as He condemned the Pharisees for their pomp and pride. They made a show of their religion while ignoring what matters most to God.

Instead, Jesus was impressed by the selfless, tenacious faith of the Syro-phenician woman, by the quiet dedication of the widow giving her mite, and by the desperately honest prayer, "*God, have mercy on me, a sinner*" (Luke 18:13).

He gently rebuked His good friend Martha for her well-intentioned busy-ness. Her sister, Mary, had chosen the only thing that was needed: to sit and quietly listen at the Lord's feet (Luke 10:38-42).

What would this Jesus think of our Christmas celebrations?

Or more properly, what would He think of *my* Christmas celebrations? All true worship takes place in the heart, so if true worship is lacking, the problem is in me.

In spite of all the "religious activity" that goes on, I've found that Christmas can be a barren time spiritually. Often little happens between God and me--little real celebration of what He has done, little true worship, little heart-to-heart with my Father. If nothing is happening in my heart, what good is any of the celebrating?

Our Lord, our Savior, we want to spend this Christmas with You, looking to You, worshipping You, and hearing Your voice.

Listen & Sing: [You Are the Light](#)