

# TAKING CHRISTMAS BACK

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

The beauty of the true Christmas story has explosive power. If you come back to the simple manger of Bethlehem, Christmas will come alive for you—it's time to take the real Christmas back.

## INTRODUCTION

In what ways has Christmas been “hijacked” by the world and emptied of its meaning? Also, how might well-meaning Christians “romanticize” Christmas and make it too beautiful?

How can we “take Christmas back” and focus on the true reason for the season?

## UNDERSTANDING

**READ LUKE 2:1-16**

Why might Joseph be the unsung hero of the Christmas story? How is his example especially important in a fatherless society?

Luke was very meticulous in his reporting (Luke 1:1-4). How does the cultural context of the Christmas story reveal that all of history is “His story”?

Pastor Greg explained, “In a time when man wanted to be God, God became a man.” In contrast to Caesar, how is Jesus revealed as the Savior? Why is He the most influential person in history?

In contrast to secularized or romanticized views of Christmas, how does the truth of the incarnation—the act of God the Son whereby He took to Himself a human nature—*enhance* the Christmas story (2 Corinthians 8:9)? What is the explosive power of the Christmas story (Romans 1:16-17)?

How did the phrase, “no room for them in the inn,” become emblematic of Jesus’ life and ministry on earth? How is this still seen today?

**While most of the world missed the first Christmas (the Roman Empire, the religious leaders, and the innkeeper), how did the experiences of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds reveal that it is all about worship? How can we keep this perspective?**

## **APPLICATION**

**Pastor Greg said, “We didn’t have any room for Him, but He has many rooms for us.” Instead of losing sight of what Christmas is about, how do you personally “make room” for Jesus during the holidays? How have you made your “reservation” for the room Jesus is preparing (John 14:2-3)?**

**Pastor Greg explained, “The good news is that even if we have forgotten God, He has not forgotten us. Come back to the simple manger of Bethlehem, and Christmas will come alive for you. It’s not about Christmas *presents*, but His Christmas *presence*!” How can you plan to focus on the simplicity of the true Christmas story, and therefore experience its explosive power?**

**In reflection of this message, in what ways do you need to “take Christmas back”?**

## **PRAYER**

**Thank Jesus that He is the Savior. Pray that you will celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by focusing on the gospel—to worship God and to share the good news with others.**