

“Christmas Night Thoughts”

Shortly after we moved to Headland in 2004, Karen bought what our six-year-old granddaughter now refers to as ‘The Jesus People’ – an outdoor nativity set consisting of the Baby Jesus and seven other figurines. My assignment is to strategically place them the day after Thanksgiving each year. During the 90 minutes it takes to set them up, I’ve often wondered what must have been the thoughts of each of them on Christmas night.

The Angel: God used His Holy Angels to get the news not to Kings and royalty but to the lowly shepherds. The angels praised God for what had transpired. They immediately began to sing songs of praise in celebration of the birth of Jesus. It fell upon one of the angels to deliver the good news to the shepherds.

The Shepherd Boy: Luke 2: 8-10 is a passage with which we are all familiar: ‘And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”’ You have to think that the young shepherd boy was overjoyed to be a carrier of that ‘good news.’

The Three Wise Men: I’ve always pictured there to have been three wise men...but do we really know that for sure? This was assumed because there were three gifts given to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ‘Wise Men’ (or Magi) were ‘noble pilgrims from the east.’ Their calling was to follow the miraculous star to Bethlehem to pay homage to the infant Jesus as king of the Jews.

Joseph: Initially, Joseph had to have been confused and afraid, but Matthew 1:21 tells us that he was instructed to ‘not be afraid...take Mary as your wife. She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins.’ I’m not sure that would have been enough for me but I do think that in that miraculous and amazing moment when Jesus was born, Joseph found ‘peace and understanding. As a star shone brightly and a chorus of angels sang, maybe Joseph got his own epiphany: “Ah yes, Lord. I do not know what is ahead. But I see in this child all that is good and holy.”

Mary: Mary likely saw in the infant that she had just given to the world, a child in appearance like all other children...but knew that He was the very Son of God. Mary’s soul was filled with an immense faith. And her heart was in perfect harmony: a woman’s adoration of her God and a mother’s love for her Son.

As I’ve gotten older, it has all become increasingly more meaningful. What have the events of that night come to mean to me and to our family? What do they mean to you?

Merry Christmas.

Thirty Day Review:

- **Probate activity in October: six wills probated, four administrations, one final settlement, 19 miscellaneous cases, three guardianships, three involuntary mental commitments and eight marriage certificates recorded**
- **December tag renewals are for new or used purchases only**
- **Nov. 24/25 – Thanksgiving holidays**
- **Nov. 30 – Christmas Tree lighting – courthouse lawn**
- **Dec. 1 – Abbeville Chamber lunch - GSWCC**
- **Dec. 1 – Headland Christmas Tree lighting and Christmas Parade (Reverend Delvick McKay, Grand Marshall)**
- **Dec. 2 – Wiregrass Forum breakfast – Ozark**
- **Dec. 2 – HCEDA organizational board meeting – Headland**
- **Dec. 5 – Abbeville Christmas Parade – Mrs. Maribeth Herndon, Grand Marshall**
- **Dec. 6/8 – ACCA Legislative Conference – Montgomery**
- **Dec. 7 – HCYLP ‘Power of Youth’ – Ozark**

Dates to Remember:

- **Dec. 12 – ACCA/APJA committee meeting – Montgomery**
- **Dec. 13 – Wallace College Foundation board meeting (campus and virtual)**
- **Dec. 13 – Henry County Administrative meeting – 9:00 – Annex Courtroom**
- **Dec. 13 – Henry County Commission meeting – 10:30 – Annex Courtroom**
- **Dec. 15 – SEARP&DC board meeting – Dothan**
- **Dec. 13 & 26 – Christmas holidays – Merry Christmas**
- **Jan. 2, 2023 – New Year’s Day holiday – Happy New Year**