LOVE

Christmas

We Need Christmas

FOLLOW US: @godssongwithin God's Song Within

▶ VIDEO COMPANION

We Need Christmas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTyRlDuqSZ8

> *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*
>
> LUKE 2:19

Exhausted from boxing up all the fall décor, I trudged once more down the stairs to the guest bedroom to begin the daunting task of transforming the ranch into a winter wonderland for Christmas.

Normally, I loved this exhilarating task, but the pinched nerve in my back made every movement a painful reminder: decorating for Christmas would be a challenge this year.

Before long, though, as cheerful Christmas music filled the air, I realized something: I needed Christmas. Memories of sweet Christmases past began flooding my thoughts.

The first box held a favorite—a Little Golden Book of Frosty the Snowman, now very much an antique. One Christmas, while I recovered from the mumps, my daddy read this little book to me over and over again. Amid the holly and lights on this year's entry table, I made sure it found a place of honor.

Next came a photo of my daughter at age sixteen. All she wanted that year was an adorable teddy bear dressed in a nightgown. It was so cute! With no money to fulfill her wish, I secretly pawned the diamond from my wedding ring and told no one.

I smiled as I nestled her photo among this year's holly, remembering how tightly she hugged that bear on Christmas morning so many years ago.

I used to ask my husband, "As a child, what was your favorite Christmas?"

With a huge smile, he would reply, “The year I got a football!” Every year, when we shopped for children in need, he always made sure a football found its way into our collection of gifts.

As I pondered these precious memories, my thoughts turned to Mary. I imagine Jesus’ mother held the events surrounding His birth close to her heart. Can’t you picture her reflecting each year on that miraculous night, remembering how the shepherds came to worship God’s precious gift—the Messiah?

There was the unexpected circumstance of having to stay in a stable that night. Then came the visit from the wise men, bearing their costly gifts. And later, the fear and uncertainty of fleeing to Egypt to protect Jesus’ life.

What a lifetime of extraordinary memories Mary carried in her heart!

Luke 2 tells us how the shepherds spread the Good News. But Mary’s response was more personal and reflective: “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” — Luke 2:19

Perhaps we, too, need to slow down amid the hustle and bustle of Christmas and treasure the memories, the moments, and the meaning behind it all.

Christian recording artist Matthew West captures this longing in his song “We Need Christmas.” Its message reminds us how desperately we need Christmas to bring us together and help us remember the joy, peace, hope, and love this season represents.

More than the tinsel, twinkling lights, treasured ornaments, or even our sweetest Christmas memories, we need the Savior who gave Christmas its meaning.

This year, as we prepare our homes for the holidays, may we also prepare our hearts to welcome Him anew.

Yes, we need Christmas—not simply a day on the calendar, but the hope, peace, and redeeming love of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Karen Good

Find Us Online

INSTAGRAM

@godssongwithin

FACEBOOK

God's Song Within