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Grace Notes Radio Program

SERIES: The Christmas Story

TITLE: Are your gifts fit for a King?

**SONGS: It's still the greatest story ever told
Silent Night**

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. We hope you've enjoyed the Christmas Story these past few programs and that you've taken time to read it for yourself. On our last program, Barbara Sandbek told of the events that led up to the birth of Christ, and described the surroundings in which the Savior of the world was born. Today, she will talk about the support players, and continue with the reading of the Christmas story.

Shepherds were the first visitors to see the newborn Christ-child.

The Scripture reads...

And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them...

**“Fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy
which shall be to all people.”**

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying...

**“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will
toward men.”**

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another,

**“Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which
is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.”**

And they came with haste and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe, lying in a manger.

Why was this glorious message given to shepherds? They were not easily persuaded and were ceremonially unclean to boot. They couldn't bathe for long periods of time. And they were notoriously untruthful. Why did God want them to be the first to know?

Because...JESUS CAME TO THE LOWLY.

Matthew 9:13 records Jesus as saying that He did not come to call the righteous, rather sinners, to repentance.

Luke 19:10 states...

The Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost.

They knew their need of a Savior.

And they immediately told what they knew to be the truth – they were not ashamed. And what did they tell?

The greatest story ever told!

***** **WRITERS: William J. Gaither, Jackie Miller**

**** It's still the greatest story ever told **** & Gloria Gaither**

***** **LENGTH: 3:50**

*A woman and an angel, a promise and a song.
A word too grand for any mind to hold.
A tax law and a journey, a stable and some straw.
These tell the greatest story ever told.*

*Oh sing glory in the highest, he is come our great messiah.
Come bow before this awesome mystery.
Mighty God and fragile baby, here a lowly manger holds.
And it's still the greatest story ever told.*

*A hillside and some shepherds, a blaze of blinding light.
Angels singing carols in the cold.
Eternal revelation to men as dull as stone.
The glorious, greatest story ever told.*

*Oh sing glory in the highest, he is come our great messiah.
Come bow before this awesome mystery.
Mighty God and fragile baby, here a lowly manger holds.
And it's still the greatest story ever told.*

*Oh sing glory in the highest, he is come our great messiah.
Come bow before this awesome mystery.
Mighty God and fragile baby, here a lowly manger holds.
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And it's still the greatest story ever told.

JESUS CAME TO THE ELITE as well..

Reading from Matthew 2...

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem saying,

“Where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him?”

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him,

**“In Bethlehem of Judea for thus it is written by the prophet.”
And they departed, and lo the star in the east stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.**

And when they were come into the house, they saw a young child with Mary his mother and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold and frankincense and myrrh.

The Magi, or Wise men, were Gentile astrologers, who traveled a long way to worship Him. Some say that Jesus was about two years old when they arrived there.

These wise men were subjected to ridicule. If they were so wise, then why were they going to visit a King who was born in a cave?

It's interesting...They were led by a star to the Light of the world.

They brought gifts to their King; gifts that cost them something – Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**Gold symbolized Christ's deity...Frankincense - His purity...
and Myrrh - His Priesthood and his death.**

(This was used to both anoint and embalm people.)

What gifts will we bring Christ for His birthday?

At one of our concerts, I asked the children on the front row this question.

A little girl raised her hand and said,

"I want to give Jesus, joy. "

Then another little girl said,

"I want to give Jesus, love."

It got even better. After the concert, another girl said she had wanted to raise her hand but was afraid. I asked her what she had wanted to say.

She said,

"I want to give Jesus, ME."

Those girls really had it together. That's exactly what the Lord wants.

Jesus said, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." He wants us to come to him with a child-like trust and love, willing to give Him our heart.

What gifts should we give? - ones that cost us something, for sure. A costly gift usually involves giving of ourselves – spending time at His feet, worshipping Him, thanking Him for His goodness, and praising Him for His faithfulness.

Remember the story of the little drummer boy? He was all excited about going to see baby Jesus, but he didn't want to go empty-handed. What could he give, though? He was just a boy and didn't have a lot of money to buy anything. He thought, and thought, and then it came to him. He had spent time practicing the drums and he was getting pretty good at it. Perhaps, Jesus would like his music. So, he went in with the others, and, drawing near to the manger, he pulled out his drum and played as best he could. He was rewarded as he looked down and saw a smile on baby Jesus' face.

In the busyness of our lives let's stop, forget our cares, go outside our adult world, and play in the spiritual realm. Maybe we'll see a smile on our Father's face, just like the little drummer boy saw on baby Jesus' face, as he worshipped him the best way he knew how.

I'd like to close this program with one of the greatest Christmas songs ever written. Our family got together this week to record it for you. But before we sing, I thought you just might like to know the details behind how this song can to be.

It was written during the Christmas season in the Australian Alps, by a 26 year old priest named Joseph Mohr. There was a lot of singing during this festive time, but Joseph felt he hadn't heard the perfect song yet. He wanted so very much to write a song for the Christmas service but he didn't have time. A child had been born to a wood-cutters wife and he had to go bless the child. Walking home, he found himself moved by having been there. The wood-cutter's home was full of love, joy and contentment, though they were poor. He was on one of the mountains overlooking the valley. The silence of the night, the starry splendor of the wintry sky, and the twinkling of the village lights invoked in him the words to 'Silent Night'. He ran home and wrote until 4 am. On Christmas morning he met with Franz Gruber, the church organist, who wrote the music in no time. Together they had created the perfect Christmas song.

From our family to yours... here's 'Silent Night'.

******* WRITER: Joseph Mohr/Franz Gruber**

*** Silent Night *** LENGTH: 2:08**

*Silent night! Holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round your virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

Thanks for joining the program.

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Fallston, MD 21047

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Why not send along a Christmas gift to support this ministry?

Your contributions will help us further the truths of God's Word.

Join us on our next program - we'll conclude the Christmas Story.