

Date: December 12, 2021

Title: Christmas Carols - Hark the Harold Angels Sing

Speaker: Dave Solmes

Question: Describe some of your most sacred Christmas moments?

This carol is a written masterpiece – inviting the world to take a look at Jesus – it is worded this way part way through the carol. “Veiled in flesh. the Godhead see.”

Question: What is the significance of a veil?

A veil does not hide anyone. A veil is not a mask. Someone wearing a veil is not out of site. If you wear a veil your intention is to be seen. But to be see through a veil you have to get close.

This carol is saying – “don’t miss meeting God by not looking closely at the human Jesus. Jesus IS / God IS appearing in human flesh. Look. The veil Wesley mentions is the human flesh of Jesus – don’t be mistaken. The flesh of Jesus was never meant to be an obstacle, stumbling block to people seeing, knowing, touching God.

God’s heart would be actually the opposite. We can see a God on full display when we are hearing, seeing, and touching, = Jesus.

Question: What about our Veils?

This carol reminds us of the truth spoken of in 2 Corinthians 3 about our human veil.

Verse 12 - And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ.

Verse 14 - Whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Question: What are our veils?

Answer: Disbelief, sin, pride, poor theology, lack of understanding, hard, as Jesus parable in Luke 8 - taught perhaps our hard, thorny or stony hearts, current events, pandemic.

1. Look Past the Veil - Something to hear

This CAROL begins with an exhortation ... a command ... FIRST WORD - a call to action: "Hark!"-"Listen! We can see easily that Hark the Herald is undoubtedly based upon the account in Luke 2:14, Which mentions the angelic chorus that announced the birth of Jesus Christ. This message is not just for the shepherds out tending their sheep that night. The message is for us as well. "Hark, Listen"

Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild.

Read: Isaiah 9:6

Question: Why is the message of peace good news for our planet and people on the planet?

Answer: The birth of Christ unlocks the possibility of peace and reconciliation IN our broken world. PEACE ON PLANET AND FOR ALL PEOPLE.

Read Luke 2:11: - fearful events and great signs from heaven.

Read: Romans 8:21-22

Question: In what ways does our planet need peace?

Question: In what ways do people need peace?

2. Look Past the Veil - Something to hear Something to feel

Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Read: Luke 2:10

Question: Perhaps there is a gap between joy and you?

Question: What news is shaping your life narrative?

Perhaps one thing this pandemic has done is asked of us to rediscovering our source of joy. Question: Do you think that people's love affair with the things of this world is breaking up?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

Question: In what ways should joy be evident and expressed in our lives?

Question: What has been the mood in your home and why?

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel

John Piper - The incarnation is the preparation of nerve endings for the nails that would be hammered into his hands and feet. The incarnation is the preparation of a brow for thorns to press through. He needed to have a broad back so that there was a place for the whip. He needed to have feet so that there was a place for spikes. He needed to have a side so that there was a place for the sword to go in. He needed cheeks, fleshy cheeks, so that Judas would have a place to kiss and there would be a place for the spit to run down that the soldiers put on him. He needed a brain and a spinal column with no vinegar and no gall so that the exquisiteness of the pain could be fully felt.

Question: What does appropriate worship entail?

4. Look Past the Veil - Something to Receive

Mild He lays His glory by ...
born that man no more may die
born to raise us from the earth
born to give us second birth"

Question:

What steps will you take to look beyond the veil and insure that you leave nothing left unreceived and nothing left unsaid?