

Christmas is a season of anticipation, especially for those of us with young kids. The eager straining forward in joyful expectation is felt long before the decorations are brought out. Though early preparations and anticipation may, to some seem excessive, they may actually be perfectly appropriate. The event is a celebration of the long anticipated coming of God's Messiah, the Lord Jesus as a baby.

First at the fall and then throughout history, He was promised to the people, as the One who would come and set things right. The angels announced His evening arrival with shouts of joy...

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger. Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

(Luke 2:10-15)

This was cause for celebration!

The angels brought good news of great joy that was for all people, for all who would believe on the name of this Baby.

It is important that we recognize how our lives are different because God came in the flesh, to rescue us from the bondage of sin, make us a part of His kingdom, and spread this good news of great joy to all the people.

Let's not be women who shy away from a good party because it's a lot of work, or in the name of simplicity hold back on generosity. This is a time for obvious celebration with whatever we have. Let's teach our kids, grandkids, parents, neighbors, friends and coworkers that in God's presence is fullness of joy. He came to this earth to make His dwelling with us, so that this fullness of joy would grow, as far as the curse is found!

For those of us looking back to His birth, Christmas is a time of celebrating what Jesus did when He came, as much as it is a celebration of what He is doing now.

Is your life different because Jesus came? Celebrate! This is an opportunity to sing, eat, and make merry because of it! Glory in Him! Magnify His great name as you prepare for the Christmas season.

Let's make sure we are women marked by unmistakable joy in the midst of whatever life God has for us, because as believers, we have the presence of God dwelling within us. That's reason to celebrate!