

Luke 10:39 “She had a sister named Mary which also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.”

“NEWSLETTER: “MOMENTS WITH MARY”

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“A PROMISE FULFILLED!”

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Luke 2:11-12 “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; ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

Celebrations are a result of a memorable or worthy event, such as a birthday, wedding, some tremendous victory or accomplishment, etc. When we come together to celebrate we need to pause and reflect on *the reason* for the celebration! Feasts and Memorials were ordained of the LORD so His people come together and recall the wonderful ways He had dealt with them!

For us today, it should be a time to stop and **reflect on the reason for our holiday!** A time to remember pleasant gatherings and /or traditions we have established with those we love over the years. This gives us hope, something joyful to look forward to! **A celebration then, is also a time of great expectations!** A time to pause to give thanks for the **Promises of God**, those He has completed but also the ones we look forward to for fulfillment someday, hopefully soon! As we reflect on our past blessings, we can consider the **difficulties we’ve encountered, yet survived**, which in itself is a blessing!

Holidays are supposed to be a time for rest and restoration as we meditate on the Hope that lies in the future. Holidays give our younger generations an opportunity to share good feelings and the knowledge they are a part of something much greater and wonderful than their own circle of friends and interests. Holidays helps keep our families and friends connected with each other! They help place our focus on what is ahead of us, the gatherings, special foods and pretty packages that promise **something special hidden inside!**

For many, the Christmas Celebration is a time of **awesome retelling** of how God the Father sent His Promised Son, the Messiah as a baby who would change the World by His coming! A humble Child, born in humble surroundings, yet His birth was celebrated by Angels singing praises to God, as well as common folks, the shepherds who were startled by this Good News the Angels brought to them! Royalty endured a long and dangerous journey to honor this Child, born King of the Jews! **Ahh! The Birth of Jesus, is a Promised fulfilled!**

Simeon was a servant of God who had been promised he would not die until he had seen the Promised Messiah! [Luke 2:25-32] Here is my paraphrased summary of that Passage

of Scripture. **“I can die in peace now, for I have seen the Lord’s Messiah!”** Here is a simple challenge to each of us now. Can we say the same thing as Simeon said? Do we have that peace in our hearts that we receive when we have met the Promised Savior?

We have an opportunity this year as we celebrate our holidays to take the time we need to pause and refresh our souls and minds of the many Promises our Lord has made for us. Make a list of your blessings as you make your Christmas shopping list! When you wrap those pretty boxes and tie them with ribbons, are you thinking about how pleased the recipient will be? What about the gifts you unwrap? Each one reveals the precious gift within!

Think about the Gift of Christ to us and how He helps us unwrap or reveal more of Himself to us! Take great joy in the wonderful ways Christ is being revealed to you in new and marvelous ways as you grow closer to Him!

There are many happenings in the world today to distract us from the pleasures and promises of God. Seek Him early each day and ask Him to reveal his blessings that you may otherwise miss seeing! As we remember the past and look forward to what lies ahead for us, do not allow anything to overwhelm you, but **take time to look up those Promises of God.** Everything He has said will certainly come to pass! **Celebrate Jesus, the Promised Christ Child** who accomplished all He came to earth to do!

Blessings in His Service! Mary Mayko

“CELEBRATE!”

By Mary Mayko

The reasons for joy and celebration are many,
So we gather with love, in times of need or times of plenty!
Today we come in honor of a truly great event
To celebrate the Christ Child, the One our Father has sent!

How we need to pause, reflect and be very grateful,
For the blessings He sends and be thankful!
We realize His great love as we carefully remember,
The whole world rejoices at His Birth each December!

Celebrations lifts the heart and renews our visions,
Enhances our lives, gaining new wisdom for all our decisions,
What a blessing to us, in our lives just to know,
God takes great pleasure in making it so!

So come now! Celebrate our Savior’s Birth!
Let your joy ring out all over this earth!
Sing with holy Angels and mankind this day,
The Christ Child has come! Our Redeemer has shown us His way!