

What distracts you from Jesus?

Introduce myself as a Timothy of the church. Long time coming to do this and so I asked some people for some advice.

- Advice that my Dad gave Chad before Chad preached his first sermon that Chad in turn gave me.
- Chad didn't believe that I was doing this at first, but when he really believed me he sent me an e-mail that said God loves to do good through those who love Him.

What do you think of when you think of Christmas? For me, one of my favorite memories growing up is watching A Charlie Brown Christmas. It is just one of those things that for me says Christmas.

One of my memories from Christmas on my Mom's side is the reading of the Nativity Story. But we always here of the story from Mary's point of view. What about Joseph's?

Matthew 1:18-21...explain the story from Joe's point of view. He could have left Mary, but instead became the step-father to the King of Kings. Joe was focused on a goal at hand.

But he and Mary became distracted.

The problem of distractions.

I also have memories of Christmas with the Ping's. Explain Christmas with the Pings'

There are almost 40 people who cram into a house and everybody has to bring some sort of gift and no matter what someone walks away with their feelings hurt. You could probably make a reality TV show on Christmas with the Pings. In fact, I was telling my wife that I think Christmas with the Pings would be a lot better if Norm Stabler was there. Explain why.

The problem is that we, as a family, have become distracted on what Christmas is all about.

In **Luke 2:40-51** Jesus is left at the temple. They were a day away before they noticed he was gone. Mary treasured these things in her heart, but Joe was probably ready to crucify Jesus right then and there for not having enough sense to go with the family left.

In the same way we become distracted at Christmas. We get so caught up in making a gift for this person, or attending this party, or decorating the house out, that we

miss what Christmas is all about. Or we do even worse, we take Christ out of CHRISTmas and tell people, Happy Holidays.

It is kind of ironic that when we look at the story of the boy Jesus he was left at the temple when Mary and Joe were at a party. If it is so easy for the parents of Jesus to leave him, how much easier can it be for us to leave Jesus on the sidelines because we are distracted.

We have become so wrapped up in our parties and celebrations, etc. now, that we have missed why we even celebrate the season.

My question is, have we become so distracted that we are like the Pharisees in **Matthew 15:7-9** that are hearts are so far from Jesus because of our parties and Christmas get togethers that we have missed Jesus. Or rather not missed him because we were so distracted we never realized he wasn't even there anymore.

played "Give Me Jesus Video"

