

Is Jesus at the Center?

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Is Jesus in the scene or is Jesus in the center?

Wisemen — 3 Magi, wealth, fame, notoriety

Proverbs 23:4-5 — Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Mary and Joseph — family first

Matthew 10:37-39 NIV — “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

The Angel — hyper spiritualism

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NIV — If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Shepherds — work, career, pursuit

Animals — rest, hobbies, the things God gave us to enjoy.

Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 NIV — I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on mankind: ² God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor, so that they lack nothing their hearts desire, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil.

Colossians 1:15-17 NLT — “Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.”

- 1) Invite Jesus to take his rightful place
- 2) Involve him in every area of my life
- 3) Ignite a fresh passion to know him more

**Until Jesus is at the center,
nothing else makes sense.**