

# JESUS IS OUR PEACE (Holy Moments, Part 4)

## The Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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Various artists presented their interpretations of the first Christmas based on their geographical origins and cultural backgrounds. But how can we picture the Nativity based on the Scriptures? When we approach certain texts in the Bible, we should be reminded of Verbum Domini Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Benedict XVI, which states that "the Word of God speaks to each culture." Hence, our understanding of the Nativity will depend on our cultural acceptance of the first Christmas.



### 1. What is the important concept to remember when understanding the first Christmas in the Scriptures?

We should establish "sitz im leben" which is a German term meaning a life setting. In biblical studies, it refers to the community life situation where a text was created, used, and transmitted. It is crucial for understanding the original purpose and meaning of the writer. When we read about the Nativity (Lk 2:1-7), we have to know the following:

- 1.1 Time and event when the angel talked to Mary
- 1.2 Climate
- 1.3 Life setting
- 1.4 Event going on at that time
- 1.5 People present during the nativity

### 2. What was the life setting when Jesus was born? Jesus was born in the:

- 2.1 Middle of chaos and noise, because it was during the time of the census when all were going to Judea to register, including Joseph and Mary.
- 2.2 Darkness and uncertainty of being the parent of Jesus.

### 3. Why did God not choose for Jesus to be born in quietness and peace, but during the time of the census, when it was chaotic and noisy?

- 3.1 God wants to communicate to us that our God incarnate, who became flesh, entered into humanity, chaos, noise, darkness, and uncertainties. This means that if our Christmas is in the same situation, Jesus will be born in our lives.
- 3.2 Hence, our Christmas need not be peaceful because Christmas is not about external peace. It is about the internal peace that we recognize amidst noise, chaos, and darkness.
- 3.3 Symbolically, the first Christmas is an image of Joseph and Mary holding Jesus, sailing peacefully amidst a storm.

### Conclusion:

Christmas in our culture is chaotic, noisy, and full of uncertainties in the coming new year, but the real peace can be found in Jesus Christ. The year 2026 could be challenging for some; however, rest assured that "*Jesus is our peace.*"

### Reflection:

1. How do you understand the first Christmas? Is it the way you imagine it to be?
2. Are you going through certain aspects in your life with unresolved issues? What is bothering you right now?

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