



**MESSAGE:** A Christmas Invitation    **TEACHER:** Jim Firth    **DATE:** 12/17/2023

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**QUESTION #1**

In this message, what resonated with you?

**QUESTION #2**

Was there anything you wrestled with?

**QUESTION #3**

What was the good news of great joy that came to the shepherds through their angelic visit?

## **QUESTION #4**

Jim says it's our job to speak, and the Holy Spirit argues the case and convinces people. What do you think about that? Do you feel pressure to convince people about the truth of the gospel?

## **QUESTION #5**

How have you been a "witness" to Jesus in your own life? Does a story someone else told you come to mind as an example of being a witness for Jesus?

## **QUESTION #6**

Read James 5:19-20 below. Many people are praying for their family members, that someone might water or plant a seed for Jesus in their lives. Can you think of a simple way to be on the lookout to be that person? Where would you start?

### **James 5:19-20, NLT**

My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, <sup>20</sup> you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

## **QUESTION #7**

How do churches end up forgetting they are in the life-saving business? What can be done to combat this kind of complacency?

## **QUESTION #8**

Everything is temporary except following Jesus, the one true source of light and love, our salvation. What are some things that matter most in the light of eternity?

**See Scripture citations and book reference on next page...**

## TEACHING SCRIPTURE CITATIONS

### Luke 2:10-12, NIV

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

### 1 Peter 3:15, NIV

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

### Psalm 71:15, ISV

I will declare your righteousness and your salvation every day, though I do not fully understand what the outcome will be.

### James 5:19-20, NLT

My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, <sup>20</sup> you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back from wandering will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

### Luke 15:7, NIV

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

### Luke 14:23, NIV

So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.

### John 11:38-43, NIV - read John 11 for full context

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

### Romans 10:14-15, NIV

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

**TEACHING BOOK CITATION**

*Born Again*, by Chuck Colson

