

TEAM WORK SURROUNDING CHRIST'S BIRTH

INTRO: We are all familiar with the effectiveness of a "TEAM EFFORT." Whether it be in sports, at work, in the family, in church, or in government, TEAM WORK IS ESSENTIAL. Putting it simply: **GOOD TEAMWORK BRINGS VICTORY BUT BAD TEAMWORK BRINGS DEFEAT.** Upon looking at the birth of Jesus Christ there are a lot of things we see: Angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, etc. BUT WHAT WE MAY FAIL TO REALIZE IS THE TEAM WORK THAT BROUGHT THE MESSAGE OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TO US. Let's take a look at the TEAM WORK SURROUNDING CHRIST'S BIRTH in this lesson.

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I. JOSEPH HEARING THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

- Matthew 1:18-21
- Joseph listened to the Angel's message and responded properly.
- Joseph was a part of the PROVIDENTIAL TEAM.

II. MARY HEARING THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

- Luke 1:26-38
- Mary listened to the Angel's message and praised God for what was going to take place.
- Mary was a part of the PROVIDENTIAL TEAM.

III. THE SHEPHERDS, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD AND THE HEAVENLY HOSTS

- Luke 2:8-20
- The Shepherds listened and then sought out the new born child Jesus.
- The Shepherds were a part of the PROVIDENTIAL TEAM.

IV. THE MAGI FOLLOWED THE STAR

- Matthew 1:1-12
- The Magi followed the star, found Christ and worshipped Him with gifts.
- The Magi were a part of the PROVIDENTIAL TEAM.

LESSON/APPLICATION:

- 1) Apart from the combined response of Joseph, Mary, the Shepherds and the Magi, we would not have a complete account of the birth of Christ. Imagine if just ONE of them would have done their own thing.
- 2) God used different people from different positions in life to portray the message of the Birth of Christ.
- 3) Each member of the TEAM submitted to the direction given them without any hesitation.
- 4) The work of the Lord can only go on with effective TEAM WORK.