

## Behold Him

(2Co 3:17-18) <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup>But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Principle: We become what we behold. (lamp of body Mt 6:22-23)

Jesus desires us to behold His glory. (Jn 17:24)

Beholding Him transforms us. So how do we behold Him?

We behold Him by meditating on every aspect of Him revealed to us.

### Christmas is about beholding Him. (Manger)

*Joseph/Angel* (Mt 1:23) <sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

God became a man to reveal Himself to us.

Accessible - wants to be known

He would die to make *the* way to be with us forever.

Love (unconditional Jn 3:16, Rom 5:8), Acceptance (conditional Eph 1:6-7, Jn 14:6)

*Wise Men* (Mt 2:1-2) <sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” (Mt 2:9-11) <sup>9</sup>When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup>And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.

He is the King born worthy of worship.

God is always leading us to worship Him. (star)

He is the source of Joy.

It's always worth the journey to encounter Him.

*Mary/baby Jesus* (Lk 1:31-33) <sup>31</sup>“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup>“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup>“And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

(Isa 9:6-7) <sup>6</sup>For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

He is the greatest, wisest leader ever; He is worth following.

He will bring justice to the earth. He is the source of Hope.

*Shepherds* (Lk 2:8-14) <sup>8</sup>Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup>Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup>“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>“And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

He is the Savior of all men, revealing His glory to the lowly.

God’s intentions toward men are peace and good.

He delivers from fear. (1 Jn 4:18)