

**“Not Yet Christmas”**  
**December 24, 2006**

I. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” ~  
Christmas in a nutshell

A. There are always a whirlwind of emotions at  
Christmastime.

**Great contagious joy. But also profound  
sadness and heartache.**

B. Wherever I find myself on this scale, what is true?  
**Christmas is for me. It’s not going to pass  
me by – if I don’t let it – because it’s not  
yet Christmas.**

C. What do we see in the Bible’s Christmas story?  
**The same mixture of joy and heartache.**

II. Why is Jesus the ‘reason for the season’? What does God  
want me to know from the Christmas story?

1. Because of Christmas we know that God is near.

A. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”  
**God is in the manger, wrapped in flesh. Jesus  
is prophet, priest and king all rolled into one.**

2. Because of Christmas we know that God sees our hurts.

A. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”

B. Why was the King of kings born of peasant stock in the  
poorest of towns?

**To identify with the lowliest of all, and thereby  
bring all of humanity up and out of the muck of  
sin.**

3. Because of Christmas we know that God will heal our hurts.

A. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”

B. What *didn’t* God do at the first Christmas?

**He didn’t just take our hurts and sorrows away.  
He didn’t wave a magic wand and take evil  
people like King Herod away.**

C. Why doesn’t God just destroy evil?

**Because evil is in each and every one of us. Maybe  
we’re not as outwardly bad as King Herod, but that  
potential is in each and every one of us. It’s like  
we’re all wrapped up with cords of dynamite and  
God wants to blow up the dynamite without blowing  
us up. What makes it all worse, is that we usually  
don’t see the dynamite around us – we only see it  
wrapped around others.**

D. So how did God save us from evil without destroying us?

**It’s why Jesus came. Jesus had no dynamite  
wrapped around him, so he came to us and asked us  
to place our evil on him. Once we were safely out of  
harm’s way, Jesus “detonated” the evil on the cross.  
I am healed then by believing in Christ – giving my  
heart, soul and life to him.**

E. What is left for us to do?

**To tell others about Christ, before he returns and  
it’s too late. To spread Christmas around.**