



## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**



My dear friends in Jesus Christ,

The blessings of Christmas are tied to our response to Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. When we read the Christmas story from the Bible, there are many archaic personalities who responded to God differently. Billy Graham describes two characters as follows. One among those personalities is the inn keeper. Joseph and Mary knocked at the door seeking a room. The inn keeper was not hostile; he was not opposed to them, but his inn was crowded. This is the answer that millions are giving today. Like a Bethlehem inn keeper, they cannot find room for Christ. All the accommodations in their hearts are already taken up by other crowding interest. Their response is not atheism. It is not defiance. It is pre occupation and the feeling of being able to get on reasonably well without Christ.

Another personality is King Herod. His answer was one of hostility. In his raging jealousy, when Herod heard that a King had been born, he said, "Destroy him! Let Him die while He is still in His cradle." This answer grew and swelled until one day it became a mad mob's terrifying roar: "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him."

In many parts of the world, this cry is still being shouted. The world objects to the Messiah. If he would remain a gentle and mild Jesus, that would be alright; there is no danger there. Or if we could put Him up in a stained-glass window and He would never come down to trouble us, then that would be all right. But a reigning Christ, a life changing Christ- that is what is unacceptable to millions of people today. Christ and Christianity appear to be a menace to their way of life. It strikes at the root of their independence.

Blessed Virgin Mary is one who responded to God's voice in a different manner. When Mary heard that the Son of the Most High would be born from her by the power of the Holy Spirit, she cried out: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord! Be it done unto me according to thy word." Her response to the glad news was challenging, yet positive.

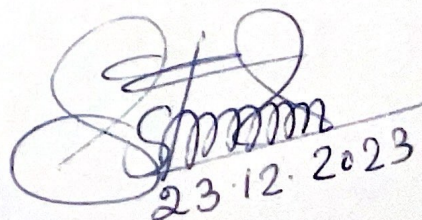
Mary's 'fiat' to the angel Gabriel is an 'yes' of the human race to God's gift of Jesus Christ to the world. Her answer was the response of commitment. This is the response I pray we will make at this Christmas!

Wish you a Merry Christmas and also a prosperous New Year!! So let us roll up our sleeves to fight a good fight to expand the Kingdom of God. Let us love one another and thus make a NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH during the advent season. Let us also go closer and closer to the crib to taste and see how sweet our Lord is! May God bless you and guide you.

With Love and Prayers,

Fr. George Thattuparampil, The Pastor,



  
23.12.2023

