

# MIRACLE ON 34<sup>TH</sup> STREET

A NEW SERMON ABOUT A  
CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

## SERMON NOTES

November 26, 2023

**"Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street"**

Matthew 7:12, 20:26, 28, 22:39; Philippians 2:3-4



### I. Introduction

- A. Miracle on 34th Street is a 1947 American \_\_\_\_\_ comedy-drama movie.
- B. Doris hires the man named Kris \_\_\_\_\_ to be the store Santa Claus at Macy's flagship store on 34th street in New York City.

### II. The Commercialization of Christmas

- A. Giving to those in need is an \_\_\_\_\_ to commercialism.
- B. In the movie, Kris is teaching them - and us - to make people a \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Faith and Doubt

- A. Martin Luther once said "Only God and certain madmen have no \_\_\_\_\_."
- B. God came to us in the flesh to \_\_\_\_\_ that he exists.
- C. There are three things we should know about struggles with \_\_\_\_\_:
  - 1. God believes in you, even if you don't believe in God.
  - 2. God is patient with people who struggle with faith.
  - 3. When we love people who are struggling with faith, we have the greatest opportunity to see them won by love.
- D. In response to Doris' doubt, Fred says "those lovely \_\_\_\_\_ (kindness, love and joy) are the only thing worth living for."

### IV. God's Providence

- A. God's primary ways of working is through \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. In the movie, Kris is constantly helping people and moving them to be able to do the right thing. That is what \_\_\_\_\_ came to do.
- C. Jesus' example to us should inspire us to be guided by the Holy Spirit and become modern day St. Nicholases who \_\_\_\_\_ the world

***Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message***

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE Nov. 26 – Dec. 1, 2023

## INTRODUCTION

*Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* is a 1947 American Christmas comedy/drama movie. The movie is about a man named Kris Kringle who is hired to be the Santa Claus at Macy's flagship store on 34<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. The film deals with three big ideas: the commercialization of Christmas, faith and doubt, and the providence of God.

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### Monday: Luke 2:41-51

Jesus' parents lost Jesus for a day - and then spent three days finding him. Think of a time when you lost track of Jesus, and lived for days (or maybe even weeks, months, or years) with no contact with him. What helps you maintain a continual contact with Jesus and confidently return to him if you do lose touch?

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### Tuesday: Luke 1:26-38 (Miracle)

In Luke 1, God's messenger promised the birth of 2 babies, even though basic biology ruled out pregnancy (Elizabeth was too old; and Mary was a virgin). This shifted many of Mary's plans and she struggled to understand... but she did the right thing (verse 38). What helps you trust that God is with you and for you through all the ups and downs of life?

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### Wednesday: Luke 1:39-45

Before Jesus was even born, Elizabeth was the first to call him "Lord": *"Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"* (verse 43) How does calling Jesus "Lord" mean giving up the right to live your life any way you please? In what ways has Jesus' lordship changed your life, and brought a different kind of love and joy into it?

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### Thursday: Matthew 1:18-25

What would you have thought if you had been Joseph as Mary told you she was having a baby - not by another man, but by the Holy Spirit? Are there faith issues that leave you with serious struggles to believe today?

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### Friday: Luke 2:1-7

Luke's story showed God's Great Reversal:

Caesar, a human who thought he was a god, forced Joseph and pregnant Mary to make a hard trip with just a decree. That night Jesus was just a helpless baby born to two poor peasants in Bethlehem. How can grasping the stunning meaning(s) and impact of Jesus' birth open your heart to deeper praise, love and compassion?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Here is what we learn from the movie about our own spiritual journeys:

First, an antidote for the commercialization of Christmas is sharing your resources with those in need. When we focus on helping others, we find more joy than if we get another sweater we don't need. Second, all of us have doubts. But when we begin to trust in God, even the things about God that are not logical, love begins to live in and through us. Finally, the primary way God works in the world is through people. He calls each of us to become modern day St. Nicholases who change the world.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Christmas, B) Kringle. IIA) antidote, B) priority.*

*IIIA) doubts, B) prove, C) faith, D) intangibles. IVA) people, B) Christ, C) change.*