

## GREAT NIGHTS WITH CHRIST

: invited to Jesus

I. Night of the Nativity, Luke 2:8, "Keeping watch over their flocks by night."

- \* A. Fulfillment of divine prophecy
- B. Fulfillment of divine incarnation

II. Night of the Escape.

Mt. 2:14, "He took the young child and his mother by night."

- A. Incident of divine protection
- B. Incident of divine purpose
  - 1. Satan or wicked men could not thwart God's plan.
  - 2. "Out of Egypt have I called my son."
  - 3. Related to deliverance of children of Israel from Egypt on night of the Passover, Ex. 12:42: "It is a night to be much observed"

III. Night of Prayer, Luke 6:12, "He continued all night in prayer to God."

- # A. Marvelous that He should need such prayer
- B. Marvelous that He should give us such an example of prayer.

IV. Night of Soul-Winning

Jn. 3:2, "Nicodemus came to Jesus by night."

- A. The method of Christ - individual personal work.
- B. The message of Christ.
  - 1. The necessity of the new birth
  - 2. The wonderful love of God, v. 16.

V. Night of Miracle, Mt. 14:25, "in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them walking on the sea."

- A. A demonstration of deity's omnipotence -
  - that he walked on the water
- B. A demonstration of humanity's fearfulness -
  - that they were afraid
- C. A demonstration of the Savior's mercy -
  - that he helped Peter when he started to sink.

### Night of Betrayal:

When all the night's gastly glooms  
combined in cruel conspiracy  
against the Son of God,  
that was the greatest shame of mankind.

This night of betrayal reminds us  
that someone has said,  
"Quiet night, that brings rest to the  
laborer, is the outlaw's day,  
in which he rises early to do wrong,  
and when his work is ended dares not sleep."

As Shakespeare says, "The dead vast and  
middle of the night, the very witching  
time of night,  
when churchyards yawn and hell itself  
Breathes out contagéon to the world."  
This is when the Devil likes to do his work.

And Night of RESURRECTION:  
When was it that the women came to the tomb?  
It was  
"Before the day's dawning,  
Before the cock's crowing,  
Before the eastern sky's glowing  
And stars faded one by one,  
"While it was yet dark"  
they came and found the tomb empty.  
Jesus was already gone.

## NIGHTS WITH CHRIST -- (Notes)

Introduction: All have felt that there is something mysterious and majestic about the night.

"Night comes, and the stars rush forth in myriads, as to wage war with the lines of darkness; and the moon, pale ghost of night, comes haunting the cold earth... and night's black mantle covers all alike."

### I \* NIGHT OF THE NATIVITY:

"O Night, most beautiful and rare! That gave the heavens their holiest hue, and through the azure fields of air sounded the song of Messiah's birth.

It seemed that heaven's star-studded vault was like a canopy of God's love which He had spread to curtain the sleeping world.

How beautiful that night of nativity!

### III # NIGHT OF PRAYER:

Longfellow's Jymn to the Night:  
"I heard the trailing garments of the night Sweep through her marble halls...  
O holy Night! from thee I learn to bear What men have borne before!  
Thou layest thy finger on the lips of care, And they complain no more."

## VI. Night of Betrayal

### A. Scripture

1. I Cor 11:23, "The same night in which he was betrayed
2. Mt. 26:31, All ye shall be offended because of me this night.

3. Jn. 13:30, "He then having received the sop went out AND IT WAS NIGHT."

### B. Significance

1. The darkest night of history
2. The deep depravity of the human heart
3. The danger of present betrayal of Christ
  - a. By refusing Him as Savior
  - b. By Failure to confess Him before men
  - c. By unworthy, compromising, disobedient living.

## VII. Night of Resurrection

### A. The surprise of learning that Christ arose during the night rather than during the daytime.

Jn. 20:1, "When it was yet dark"-he was already gone.

### B. The Splendor of this night

1. Triumphant victory

2. Radiant Hope

C. A Night when He gave two great words (Jn. 20:17)

1. A word of Caution: "Touch me not."

## CONCLUSION:

Someday night will be banished eternally.

Rev. 21:25 & 22:5,

"THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT THERE."

This shows how we may carnalize the spiritual.

We may seek most passionately what is by no means essential: the assurance of SENSE, by touch or otherwise, when the assurance of FAITH is FAR BETTER. We may wrongly crave now what will be better further or When we are raised to eternal glory we shall be able to enjoy what now we must not ask.

2. A word of Mission: "Go to my brethren."

This was far better for Mary. Contemplation alone may degenerate into the sentimental, the sensuous, or the impracticable. She immediately did what she was commanded. She declared what she had seen. She told to others what she had heard from her Lord. This too is our mission from our Risen Lord tonight.

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