



Hismark

SEEING MY LIGHT OF
REVELATION

Luke 2:22-38



HALLMARK” VS “HISMARK”

“Hallmark” version is the fictional imagination that we allow to become more than entertainment. “Hallmark” version is good! However, the storyline can become the expectation for a meaningful Christmas, whether in cards or movies, its the air-brushed, perfect, romance, version that can end up breeding disappointment. Hallmark kept as entertainment is not a bad thing. Its only when we make “Hallmark” the expectation for real life.



“HISMARK” VS “HALLMARK”

- God decides my life story because his love and presence bring satisfaction and meaning. His “mark” upon me is sufficient to guide me, give me meaning and purpose even in the downturns of life. Hallmark version may be good – but Hismark is real, even in the valley of shadows.



WHAT MIGHT BLIND ME TO MY “LIGHT OF REVELATION” THIS CHRISTMAS?

1. Existing disappointments. Busyness of Christmas. Condition of my “spiritual eyes.” Do I want to “see”?
2. I’m not spiritual enough for Christ to speak to me, or use me. I’m not smart enough either.
3. I don’t have the gifts to be used by God. I am afraid anyway. I would probably get it wrong. He should get someone else.
4. I’m too young (or I’m too old).
5. He never has before. Why start now?



1. **God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.**

A. Simeon. 2:35

B. Anna. 2:36

C. Mary, 1:27

D. Joseph, 1:27; Matt 1:18

E. Shepherds, 2:8

F. Magi (Gentiles in a Jewish world). Matt 2:1



God's fingerprint is to use the "ordinary":

1Co 1:20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Matt. 11:25-26 ..., "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.





2. The only requirement for God's story-line in a life is "His Mark" upon that life.

A. Simeon:

- Old, unmarried, alone.
- Filled w the Spirit
- Righteous and devout

B. Anna:

- Widow until 84
- Temple & worship

WHAT DOES THE “MARK” OF GOD IN A LIFE LOOK LIKE?

Lk. 2:34-35 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." (ESV)





3. **WHEN HIS MARK IS IN OUR LIVES, OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OVERCOMES THE PAIN OF OUR LOSSES.**

Simeon's losses: his youth, his health, he is certainly alone.

Simeon's hopes::

1. Waiting for Israel to be "set free."
2. Waiting to see the face of Jesus, the Messiah.



4. WHERE ARE YOU “GAZING” THIS CHRISTMAS?

1. Hallmark storyline reveals the thirst of the human heart:
 - A. Emotions
 - B. Connections
 - C. Traditions
 - D. Family
 - E. Holidays.
2. Only Jesus can provide a true Hallmark moment that is beyond the temporary satisfaction of circumstances.

NEXT STEPS.

1. How might you “look on the face of Jesus” this Christmas? Ask God to show you His face!
2. Decide to “give Jesus” to at least one person this next week.
3. For the next 6 days, read the Christ story in Matthew and Luke’s gospels. How do they compare?

