

Answering The Call





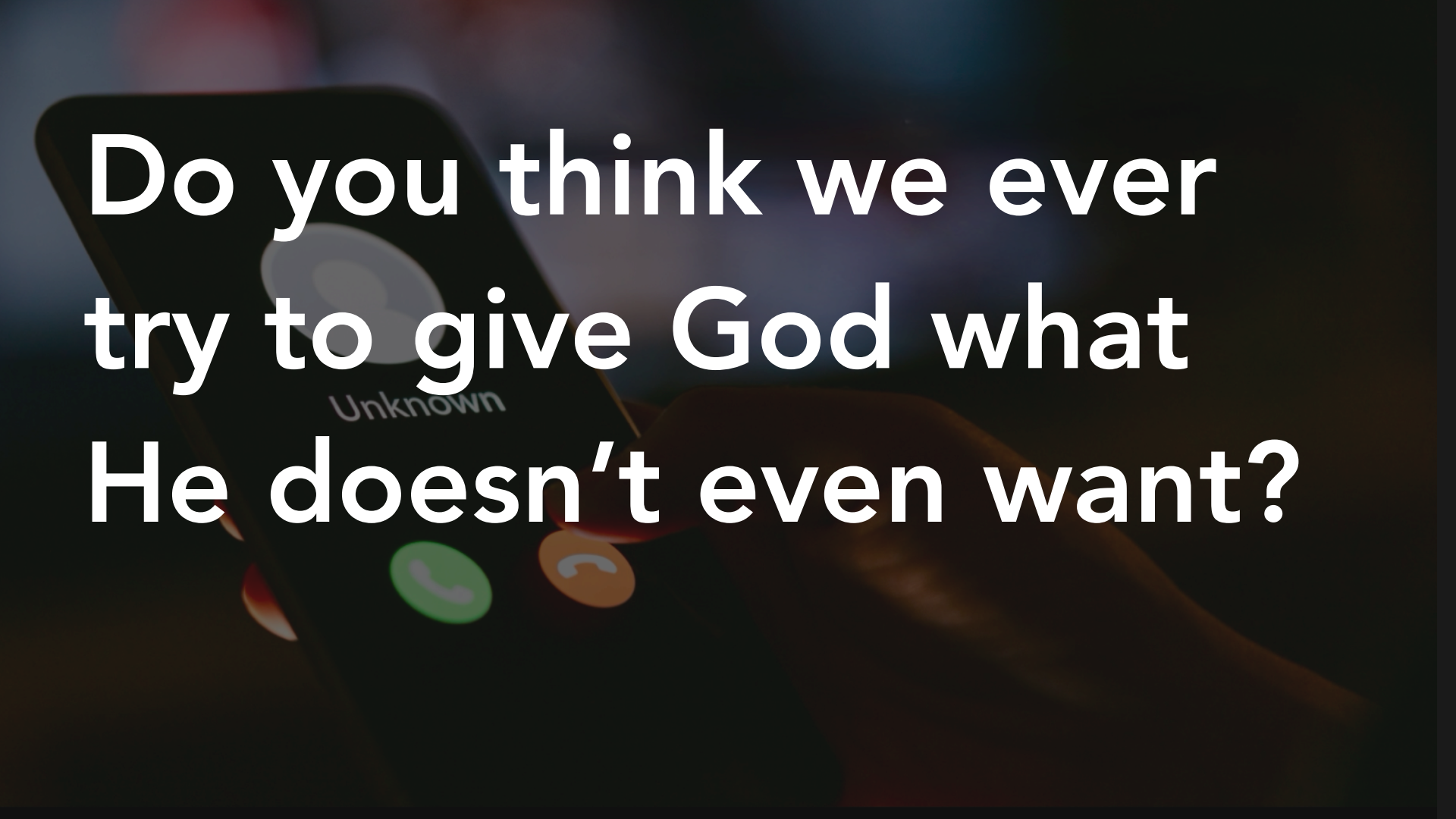
12-22



YOUR PARENTS
DON'T SMOKE,
OF COURSE...

OK,
MICHELANGELO,
YOU SCULPT
SOMETHING!





**Do you think we ever
try to give God what
He doesn't even want?**





God doesn't want something
from us. He simply wants us.

-C.S. Lewis

God doesn't want something
from **me**. He simply wants **me**.

-C.S. Lewis

A photograph of four sheep standing in a grassy field. The sheep are white with thick, woolly coats. They are looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the field and some trees in the distance. The overall lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon.

The Call of the Shepherds

(Luke 2:8-20)

A photograph of several sheep standing in a grassy field. The sheep are white with thick, woolly coats. The background is slightly blurred, showing more sheep and a fence in the distance. The overall lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“you will find a baby wrapped in
swaddling cloths and lying in a
manger.”

-Luke 2:12

The essence of Christmas...

Unknown



A hand holding a smartphone, with a blurred background of Christmas lights. The phone screen shows a call log entry with the name 'Unknown'.

The essence of
Christmas...

is that God did
something for you.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

-John 1:14

The Question:

How can I answer the call
with a "Yes, Me!"

*The example of the shepherds
(Luke 2:8-20)*

1



By ordinary
faithfulness to an
extraordinary God.

Luke 2:8-9

Luke 2:8-9

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the
Lord appeared to them, and the
glory of the Lord shone around
them, and they were filled with
great fear.

• Faithfulness in
the small things.

A stylized illustration of a human eye. The iris is a vibrant blue galaxy with white stars and nebulae. The pupil is a solid black circle. The eyelashes are depicted as delicate, light-colored cherry blossoms with soft pink and white petals. The entire eye is set against a dark, textured background that looks like a charcoal or pencil sketch.

What are the 'small' things?

A window into the life of
Steve...

• Doing my job.




• Unloading groceries.



- Making dinner.



- Eating dinner.

A close-up photograph of a man with glasses and a blue shirt. He is holding a white coffee mug with a yellow sticker that says "Coffee" in bold black letters. He has a surprised or wide-eyed expression on his face. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Coffee

- **Doing the dishes after dinner.**



- **Fixing things that break around the house.**



- Being gracious to a friend when his football team loses really bad.



"God is not looking for people of great faith, He is looking for common people to trust His great faithfulness."

-Hudson Taylor

“If you are faithful in little things,
you will be faithful in large ones.
But if you are dishonest in little
things, you won't be honest with
greater responsibilities.

-Luke 16:10

• Openness to
the big things.

So we are Christ's ambassadors;
God is making his appeal through
us. We speak for Christ when we
plead, "Come back to God!"

-2 Corinthians 5:20



- Fear of the Lord?

Fear of the LORD is the
foundation of wisdom.

Knowledge of the Holy One
results in good judgment.

-Proverbs 9:10

He who fears God has nothing
else to fear.

-Charles Spurgeon

2

By receiving the
Good News with
JOY!

Luke 2:10-14

Luke 2:10-14

10 And the angel said to them,
"Fear not, for behold, I bring you
good news of great joy that will be
for all the people. 11 For unto you
is born this day in the city of David a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

*12 And this will be a sign for you:
you will find a baby wrapped in
swaddling cloths and lying in a
manger.” 13 And suddenly there
was with the angel a multitude of
the heavenly host praising God and
saying,*

14 *"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those
with whom he is pleased!"*

Unknown

• Fear not!

Unknown



Fear God, yes, but don't be
afraid of Him.

J. A. Spender

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is
good; blessed is the one who
trusts in Him!

-Psalm 34:8

• Cause for joy?

Unknown

For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior, who
is Christ the Lord.

-Luke 2:11

3 Reasons for Joy

1. Forgiven Life

2. Fulfilling Life

3. Forever Life

● The promise.

Unknown

3.

By responding with
action.

Luke 2:15-20

Luke 2:15-20

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

*18 And all who heard it wondered
at what the shepherds told
them. 19 But Mary treasured up all
these things, pondering them in her
heart.*

*20 And the shepherds
returned, glorifying and praising
God for all they had heard and
seen, as it had been told them.*

• God at work?

Unknown

Question:

What is the Lord making known to you these days about what He is doing?

So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I."

-Jesus (John 5:16-17)

● Priorities!

Unknown



“Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.

-Jesus to Peter and Andrew
(Matthew 4:19-20)

Watch to see where God is
working and join Him in His work.

-Henry Blackaby

• Can't keep quiet.



We were made not
just to believe the
Good News,
but to proclaim it.



Closing Questions #1

How does it make you feel that
God doesn't need you, but wants
you?

Closing Questions #2

What does it look like for you to find joy in the Good News of Jesus this Christmas season?

Closing Questions #3

How is God inviting you to respond in action to His work?

Closing Quote

We were not meant to be
somebody--we were meant to
know Somebody.

-John Piper

Closing Verse

This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

-Jesus (John 17:3)

Answering The Call

