

12/25/15
Week 52
Christmas Special

James: Betty and I, with all of our love, wish you a merry Christ-filled, Christ-honoring Christmas. This is a great time of the year; isn't it, Betty?

Betty: I love it! A really special time.

James: Our minds can race back to watching all of our little grandchildren opening their presents. Now they're all pretty well grown up. Maybe they're going to have a bunch of children; we'll start all over again.

Let me just share something with you right here as we praise God for his matchless gift, the gift of Jesus. I'm glad people can smile and give gifts. But above all, can we just consider the greatest gift of all? And that the gift that was given, which we celebrate at Christmas, is a gift that not only keeps on giving but keeps on living; living through us expressing his life, his nature, his heart, fulfilling his will for his glory and his kingdom purpose. That's what you do. You watch *LIFE Today*, you will be challenged to share *LIFE Today* every day and praise God, you do.

You're going to hear one of my favorite songs right now by Veritas. Betty, "O Holy Night." Let's face it, Celine Dion hit it out of the park years ago. You're going to hear young men right now that will exalt Jesus.

And then you're going to hear Anthony Evans, and then other music that was presented just for you right here in the *LIFE Today* studios for this Christmas special. Be blessed!

Veritas:

O holy night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear savior's birth

Long lay the world
In sin and error pining
'Til he appeared
And the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope
The weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night
O holy night
O night divine

Truly he taught us to love one another
His law is love and his gospel is peace
Chains shall he break
For the savior is our brother
And in his name
All oppression shall cease

Sweet hymns of joy
In grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise his holy name

Christ is the Lord
Praise his name forever
Fall on your knees
For hear the angel voices

His power and glory forever more proclaimed
His power and glory forever more proclaimed

O holy night
Night divine
O holy night
Christ has come
O holy night
Night divine
O holy night divine
O holy night

Anthony Skinner:

Tell me the story of Jesus
Write on my heart every word
Tell me the story most precious
The sweetest that was ever heard
Tell how the angels in chorus
sang as they welcomed his birth
Glory to God in the highest

Peace and good tidings on earth
Tell of the cross where they nailed him
Writhing in anguish and pain
Tell of the grave where they laid him
And tell how he liveth again
Oh, love in this story is so tender
Clearer than ever I've seen
Stay, let me weep while you whisper
Love paid the ransom for me
Love paid the ransom for me

Anthony Evans:

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels
Come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord

He is the Lord

Oh!

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exaltation
Oh, sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God
Glory in the highest
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ the Lord

He is the Lord

O come,
O come let us adore him
O come, O come
He's Christ the Lord
O come, O come
Let us adore him

O come, O come
He is the Lord

Anthony Evans:

The first Noel
The angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields where they lay
In fields where they
Lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep
So deep
Noel
Noel
Noel
Noel
Born is the king of Israel
Noel
Noel
Noel
Noel
Born is the king of Israel

O come
Let us adore him
O come, O come
He is Christ the Lord
O come, O come

Let us adore him
O come, O come

He is Christ the Lord

Hoo

He is the Lord

Betty: We love Anthony Evans and the whole Evans family, James.

James: Fabulous! What a blessing! Isn't it great, Betty to hear the Christmas music?

Betty: I love Christmas music! It's one of my favorites.

James: I hope you've been blessed. We've presented this program with all the love in our heart and appreciation for you.

Father, I just pray you bless everyone watching. And Lord, you give them peace and comfort where perhaps there's been a loss or a hurt. And Lord, you heal the hurt and enable us to heal others; in Jesus' name.

We're asking you here as we close the year, begin a new year, help us expand an evangelistic outreach right now in all the different areas where we have had such effective relief outreach. We're asking God to give us a miracle of support right now. You simply make a love gift to help us with that and ask for the *Fully Alive* series. *Fully Alive* is a series for you that I believe can transform your life and you live fully alive!

I pray you're blessed now as you hear two incredibly gifted musicians singing right now, well, actually a duet, Shane & Shane at the end. But you're going to hear a young man named Chopper Ward who really does have a gift. Be blessed and be a blessing. Merry Christmas to you!

Chopper Ward:

Mary did you know your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new
And this child that you delivered
will soon deliver you
Mary did you know your baby boy
Would give sight to a blind man
Mary did you know your baby boy
Would calm a storm with his hands
Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby
You kiss the face of God
O Mary did you know?

Mary did you know

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
And the dead will live again
And lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb
Mary did you know your baby boy
is lord of all creation
Mary did you know your baby boy
Would one day rule the nations
Did you know that your baby boy
Was heaven's perfect lamb
And the sleeping child you're holding
Is the great I Am

O Mary did you know?

Shane & Shane:

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears
Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, now Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And this dark shadows put you blind
Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel
Oh, come thy Rod of Jesse
Free Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them victory over the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel

Betty: I know you were blessed by this beautiful Christmas music. We were! I hope you have a blessed Christmas.

James: And I'm confident that we will have a blessed Christmas because we have the greatest joy possible of blessing others by sharing God, his love through Christ. We are celebrating his birth. I pray that we spend every day of our life every other day of the year celebrating his resurrection life in us manifest in deeds of love and compassion.

You've been wonderful, as viewers of *LIFE Today*, enabling us to reach out to children all over the world and not just tell them about the love of God but show them the love of God. It is something that we've been able to do together. Thank you for helping us bless children that desperately need to know firsthand the love of God.

Hyman Stansky, gifted musician, is going to literally bless you with a Christmas medley instrumental on the piano. What a gift he is!

Merry Christmas to all of you and thank you so much for enabling us to share the love of the living Christ whose birth we celebrate every day of the year all over the world. Merry Christmas to you!

Hyman Stansky:

Christmas Medley: Piano Instrumental