

## Meaningful Carols

*There are Christmas songs that have don't have anything to say about the coming of Jesus, and then there are lots of carols that do. It can be helpful to sing the more meaningful carols to get people's focus back on Jesus at Christmastime.*

Matthew 22: 36-40 "...Love the Lord your God with all your heart..."

Acts 2:38 "...forgiveness of your sins.." (and the Christmas story Matthew 1: 18-24 2:1-12; Luke 1: 26-80 & 2:1-21)

*Two carol singers dressed up in hats and scarves, holding carol song books.*

John & Geof: We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Good tidings we bring to you and your kin; we wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Geof: Now bring us some figgy pudding, now bring us some figgy pudding, now bring us some figgy pudding, So bring some out here!

John: *(tugging on Geof's sleeve)* You can't sing that!

Geof: Yes I can. Look, here are the words

John: I've not got those words in my book

Geof: I've got another verse too... We won't go until we get some, we won't go until we get some, we won't go until we get some, So bring some out here!

John: What kind of Christmas message is that? "I'm not going to go away until you bring me what I want!"

Geof: It's a traditional Christmas message!

John: I think we should aim higher

Geof: *(singing higher)* We won't go until we get some, we won't go until we get some...

John: No! I mean we should aim for a higher standard

Geof: Are you saying my singing's rubbish?

John: No, I mean a deeper message

Geof: Make up your mind, do you want it higher or deeper? *(singing very low)* We won't go until we get some...

John: Stop singing!

Geof: We're carol singers, we're suppose to sing! That's what we do!

John: Let's make up our minds what we are going to sing first! We've got loads of carols to choose from. Let's go for the ones that actually have something to say about Jesus and Christmas.

*Looking through carol books*

Geof: I'm not singing that "pa rum pa pum pum" one, it's silly. I've never seen a nativity play with a drummer boy in it

John: OK, we don't have to sing that one. It's got good sentiments though, about us bringing to Jesus what we have got to bring, and not worrying about what other people are bringing. There's another one that says that somewhere...

Geof: Good King Wenceslas? That's got bringing in it....

John: That's more about sharing our blessings with other people, rather than what we can bring Jesus.... I've found it! In the bleak mid winter

Geof: Isn't that a song about it being really, really cold?

John: That's just the intro, then it goes into Jesus coming to reign, but humbling himself to be born in a stable, and it talks about the Virgin Mary, and the angels, and shepherds and wise men, and ends with: what can I give him? I can give him my heart

Geof: What does Jesus need my heart for?

John: It's an expression, isn't it. When you give your heart to someone you are giving them your love, loyalty and commitment.

Geof: And is this a traditional Christmas present exchange? What do I get in return?

John: All your sins forgiven, a plan and a purpose for your life, and the certainty of eternity in heaven.

Geof: That does sound better than figgy pudding...

John: *(addressing worship group)* We've made up our minds. We're going to sing In the Bleak Mid Winter next

Geof: Because it's more Jesus-y than the one about the pudding...

*(worship group play In the Bleak Mid Winter and congregation sings it, as Geof and John make their way off stage, also singing)*