

POLAR EXPRESS FAITH

Luke 1:37-8, 46-55

Polar Express: the movie of 2004, based on the 1985 book by Chris Van Allsburg

Promoted by many Christians as a parable of faith.

Warning: this book/movie cuts away the heart of the Gospel. See by contrasting with Mary's experience and confession of her faith.

Look at 3 contrasts between "Polar Express faith" and the Gospel:

I. The power of _____ v. the Power of _____: v37-38

It is faith that causes you to hear the bell and know the magic of Santa Claus

Scripture: faith is simply taking God at His Word—trusting His power

II. Credit to _____ v. credit to _____: v46-55

People who believe have a power that others don't.

"The spirit of Christmas is mainly in your heart"

You save yourself by your faith. No object of your faith.

III. No _____ v. _____ in history

"one thing about trains—it doesn't matter where they are going; the important thing is just to GET ON."

Movie's catch phrase: "This holiday season...BELIEVE."

Contrast Daniel 6:10 and Luke 1:30-38 and 2:10

It is what *happened* that first Christmas that made all the difference. You do not need "faith"; you need Christ! You come to Him by the empty hand of faith. But you never look at your faith; you look to Him!

Result:

Polar Express **discourages:**

What is the matter with my faith?

Why can't I just believe like some people?

Gospel **encourages:**

When I come to the end of myself—GOOD!

Then I look to Christ

Luke 1:53: He fills the *hungry* with good things

Cf. Matt 5:3: it is the *poor in spirit* who are blessed

The Christmas message is for shepherds and peasants and people like
you and me.

It is not about your faith.

It IS about God's Savior.

Are you willing to use this film to enter a discussion with a friend or family
member about how the Gospel is so much better than *Polar Express*
faith? Who?

Do you need to redirect your focus from your faith (or lack) back onto
Jesus, Who came for you?