

What to Give Christ for Christmas

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 17th 2023

It's God's nature to give! (Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 4:8) Since we're made in His image, part of that drive is in each of us. How strange it is that we "Celebrate the birthday of Jesus" and give gifts to everyone but Him! What can we give the God who has everything? Let's look at that familiar Christmas story and recognize some of those early "Christmas gifts".

1. Zacharias & Elisabeth (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80)

A. God gave them the gift of John. (*Jehovah bestows*) Vs 13-15

1) Every child is a gift from God. (Ps. 127:3)

B. God had special plans for John. 16-17

1) God has plans for every Child! Jer. 29:11

C. Like Hannah of old, they raised John to know/love/serve God.

1 Sam. 1:27-28 *"For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of Him: Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD."*

1) This is every parent's commission. Pr. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4

Their Gift to God was to return His gift (*of their son*) to them!



2. The Magi brought some of the first Christmas Gifts to Jesus. Mt 2

Their story is unique in many ways: They weren't Jewish; They didn't have an "angelic" visit; and They traveled thousands of miles to give.

What motivated such sacrifice?

A. While others saw a star, They saw a Savior!

1) This Star was actually the gift of prophetic "light." Numbers 24:17,19 *"there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel... Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion"*

a) They had been "looking" for this light!

2) Since they responded to the light (truth) they had, God gave them more "Light". Vs 4-6

B. While some saw an obstacle, (vs 3) they saw an opportunity! (Vs 2)

1) They journeyed in search of the true "light". John 1:4 *"In him was life, and the life was the light of men...9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man..."*

2) *"We have come to Worship Him!"* vs 2 Their Worship (gifts) involved:

a) A Trip: Going beyond familiar comfort zones.

b) A Testimony: Others knew of their journey and were affected by it. (Vs 3)

Who's affected by your testimony?

c) A Treasure: Giving something of value... To someone of value!

Gen. 22:5 *"I and the lad will go yonder and worship"*

Should our Worship involve anything less?

Mt 2:11 *“they saw the young child with Mary . . . , and fell down, and worshipped him: when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*



C. Their “gifts” came after they *“opened their treasures”*.

1) Their “treasures” were opened because their “eyes” were opened!

There gift to God involved acting on His gift of *“sight”*.

What do you “See”? (Eph 1:17-19) What are you doing with this “Sight”?

3. The Gift of the Shepherds. (Lk 2:8-20)

A. God sent His angels to share the news with them. 13-14 *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, (Eirene: to join: partnership!) good will (eudokia: satisfying purpose) toward men.”*

B. They Responded Personally To The Angel’s Message.

1) They sought carefully. Lk 2:15 *“as the angels were gone away . . . into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.”*

2) They saw personally. Vs 16 *“let us go and see”*

3) They shared unselfishly. Vs 17 *“made known abroad the saying which was told them..”*

4) They Returned Differently! Vs 20 *“glorifying and Praising God”*



Conclusion:

1) Like Zacharias and Elisabeth, we can recognize God’s gift in our children, and raise them for and return them to, Him.

2) Like the Magi, we can give God the gift of our “sight” (Focus) and “Service”.

What do you “see” in the Christmas Incarnation? How do you Serve?

3) Like the shepherds, we can Give the gift of sharing with others what He’s shared with us. *What has God revealed to you? Have you honestly/personally “investigated” it? Are you sharing it with others? How has it affected (changed) you?*

Application: What to give the God who has everything?

Pr. 23:26 *“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.”*

from rāṣâ (to accept and be pleased with) and nāṣar (to protect, guard and maintain.)