

What to Give Christ for Christmas

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 25th, 2023

It's God's nature to give! (Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 4:8) Notice how John 1 describes God's Greatest Gift as: The Word (1); God (1); Creator (3); Life and Light (4); Grace and Truth (14); and "The Lamb of God" (29)! Last week we saw how many of the characters in that first Christmas drama made choices (gave gifts to God) that caused those around to "Wonder" at what was happening.

The Shepherds shared God's good news so that *"all they that heard it wondered at those things"* (Lk 2:17,18) It's possible that a few might have "wandered" over to the little stable to see for themselves what God was doing. While some were "touched" by that first Christmas,

Mary and Joseph were "Transformed" by it!

Eventually everyone who welcomed or even noticed the Christ Child "returned" to their own lives; Leaving Mary and Joseph alone to face their new roles and responsibilities of protecting and parenting the Son of God! That first Christmas a drama played out that has continued to repeat itself for over 2 millennium. Then, like now, the "wonder" of Christmas is somewhat dimmed "the morning after."

What made Mary and Joseph "Different?"

1. While Others were Challenged by Christ's birth, *They were Changed!*

A. The Birth Of A Child Changes Us! (Friends "check in" but Families change!)

B. Wherever They Went, They Brought Jesus.

Whenever they realized that they had left him behind, they changed their agenda. (Luke 2:42-50)

This Christmas, millions will come to worship and/or "see" Jesus at some Christmas event.

The vast majority will acknowledge: "That was nice" and then simply get on with "their" life ultimately:

"because there was no room for them..." Luke 2:7

Relatively few, who having "met" Jesus Christ, will determine to make the adjustments necessary to really "make room" for him in their lives.

2. Some Noticed Christ, (Shepherds, Simeon, Anna,) *but they Nourished Him.*

A. Raising Children Is A Growing Experience!

1) You must love and "learn" your child.

2) As they grow, they (and you) change, so your relationship requires constant care/adjustment.

B. Growing Relationships require growing people! 2 Pt 3:18

C. Relationships that aren't "nourished", deteriorate! Rev. 2:4,5; Eph 5:25-29; Titus 2:4,5

Conclusion: The secret of their difference is in their devotion! Lk 1:38

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Application: For them, This Baby (Jesus) Changed Everything!

What about for you?

Are you willing to let Christ Change you? (2 Cor 5:17)

Are you willing to Nourish this relationship? (2 Peter 3:18)

Proverbs 23:26 *"My son, give me thine heart,*

and let thine eyes observe my ways."

