

It's Giving...CHRISTmas
Gifts ~ December 10, 2023

Christmas and Xmas means the Celebration of Christ

- Mas comes from Latin word for celebration (*missa*)
- *X* is abbreviated Greek word for Christos (Χριστός)

Christmas is a GIFT to us

For God so loved the world that **HE GAVE** His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. *John 3:16 (NKJV)*

Christmas teaches us HOW to give

Thanks be to God for his **indescribable gift!** *2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV)*

As we receive THE GIFT of Jesus, it teaches us to give to others from an overflow of love, generosity, and kindness.

What do we learn from the Christmas Story?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,

are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,

for a ruler will come from you

who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. *Matthew 2:1-11 NLT*

Gift Giving This Christmas for all of us

- **A mindset of overflow - Share what you have JOYFULLY**

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! Matthew 2:11 NLT

Do not neglect to do good and to **share what you have**, for **such sacrifices are pleasing to God.** *Hebrews 13:16 ESV*

- **A mindset of grace – Give with love expecting nothing in return**
 - Go back to Grace is the Cure. How do we apply what we learn for ourselves to others?
 - Is grace the cure for others too?

- What do I regularly spend more time on: being preoccupied with & beating others up over... their failures OR helping them enjoy the presence & love of God? (Romans 8:1)
- Am I convinced that by others conquering their sin they become more pleasing to God, OR do I believe because of Jesus, the Father is already fully pleased with them?
- Do I believe spiritual maturity comes through more disciplines OR through God's grace?
- Do I read the Bible for others as "they ought," "they should," OR "they can," "they will?"

- **A mindset of grace – Give JESUS this year**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. *Romans 1:6 ESV*

Gift Giving this Christmas doesn't need to be stressful but an act of worship.

1. Give from an overflow.
2. Give with no expectations.
3. Give the gospel!