

Who was Santa?

I love Christmas, lights, blow molds and the joy of the season.

But I have run into my share of purist who feel that the whole season is to be dumped due to its pagan influences.

- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday

Act 17:22-23 (NASB) So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects. [23] “For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

Act 17:22-23 (TPT) So Paul stood in the middle of the leadership council and said, “Respected leaders of Athens, it is clear to me how extravagant you are in your worship of idols. [23] For as I walked through your city, I was captivated by the many shrines and objects of your worship. I even found an inscription on one altar that read, ‘To the Unknown God.’ I have come to introduce to you this God whom you worship without even knowing anything about him.

Act 17:28 (NASB) for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His descendants.’

Who is this guy?

According to a popular belief, the man behind the famous Santa Claus story is actually a saint, a believer and follower of Jesus Christ.

A child named Nicholas (probably Greek) was born into a very wealthy aristocratic family.

At an early age Nicholas became an orphan when both of his parents died.

Nicholas became a ward of the church.

He developed a deep love for Christ and the Scriptures.

He grew up and eventually would become the Bishop of Myra in present day Turkey .

Nicholas was a very kind person and was known for his generosity. He was compassionate enough to help every needy person around him.

It was not the church which called him saint it was the people who had been blessed by his generosity.

It is said that he was very generous to the orphans and the elderly.

The most famous Santa Claus story is that of the Santa Claus going down the chimney and leaving gifts and candies in the Christmas stockings in the initials of the chimney.

According to the story, once there lived a man who was financially poor and had three daughters. His daughters were old enough to get married but he had no money to spend on any of his daughter's wedding and for the dowry. Due to this reason, he could not get his daughters married.

Nicholas knew about the same and hence, one night he went to the man's roof secretly and dropped down a bag full of gold coins through the chimney in the house. The bag of gold coins accidentally fell inside the stockings that were kept at the end of the chimney. The next day in the morning when the man found out the gold, he felt extremely happy. The man got his daughter married with the gold coins. Nicholas knew that the man had two more daughters to be married and he did the same for two consecutive times.

It was the last time that the man came to know about Nicholas as he saw him during the night dropping down the gold coins. Nicholas asked him to not tell anyone about him but soon the news got viral and everybody came to know about Nicholas.

One of the most amazing facts, at least to me, was how during the Reformation when the protestants were determined to do away with the veneration of the saints one saint avoided being thrown into the dumpster.

St Nicholas

But at first he was not the caricature of Christmas but instead the character of Christmas.

He represented the Spirit of Christmas

The one time a year when our culture embraces generosity and joy

He was remembered because of his generosity

Actually....

His generosity resulted in his immortality

Act 10:4 (NASB) And he looked at him intently and became terrified, and said, "What is it, lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and charitable gifts [generosity] have ascended as a memorial offering before God.

MEMORIAL - something causing or preserving the remembrance of a person or thing

All throughout the scripture the people of God built memorials to remind them of God and His kindnesses and that is amazing but its a whole other level when God builds Himself a memorial to remind Him about you.

Mat 26:13 (NASB) "Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her."

What had she done?

Luk 19:8 (NASB) But Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I am giving to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I am giving back four times as much."

Luk 19:9 (NASB) And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.

Luk 19:9 (TPT) (9-10) Jesus said to him, "This shows that today life has come to you and your household....

Act 26:20 (NASB) but continually proclaimed to those in Damascus first, and in Jerusalem, and then all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they are to repent and turn to God, performing deeds consistent with repentance.

Christmas isn't so much about the opening of presents and it is the opening of our hearts.

You can do what you want but personally I think we ought not to dump Santa - he is a good point of contact.