The Best Christmas Ever.

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Q: What was your Best Christmas Ever?

This Christmas will be the SAME as last Christmas unless you believe something <u>DIFFERENT</u>.

John 1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

.....

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it . . .

¹⁴ So the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Christmas is about God's PRESENCE.

8 Truths about Christmas.

1. God is a GIVER not a TAKER.

John 3

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 4

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

John 10

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Satan will NEVER give you something without TAKING something from you.

2. God gives WILDLY and RELENTLESSLY.

James 1

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Psalm 37

⁴ Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

John 14

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

3. It's better to GIVE than to RECEIVE.

Acts 20

35 "It's more blessed to give than to receive."

John 13

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

The best GIFT you can give your family is YOURSELF.

4. Give your GIFTS to the BIRTHDAY Boy.

Matthew 25

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

You can't OUT-GIVE God.

5. Beware of the **MONKEY JAR**.

Mark 10

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Never hold onto ANYTHING that will hold you CAPTIVE.

6. Jesus came **DOWN** into the **WORST**.

Luke 2:6

⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

John 1

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus traded his AUTHORITY for VULNERABILITY.

7. The WORLD matters to God.

Matthew 4

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Matthew 6

⁹⁻¹⁰ "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Revelation 21

¹ Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

8. YOU matter to God.

Isaiah 41

¹³ For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Romans 5

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 16

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Q: What truth did you need to hear today?