

The Gift 12-7-2025

December 5, 2025



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Luke 2:1-20 NKJV Birth of Jesus

John 3:16 NKJV “For God so Loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

God so LOVED... He GAVE!

1. Love (Egapesen) Greek
 - a. Comes from root word Agape - Unconditional, Sacrificial Love - distinct from mere feeling
 - b. This love leads to action, not just emotion
 - c. Signifies a completed past action of deep selfless, sacrificial love
 - d. Ephesians 3:18-19 NKJV
 - e. Romans 8:39 NKJV
2. Gave (Edoken) Greek
 - a. He gave, has given - past tense
 - b. Given Authority, Command, used to describe giving a GIFT

3. John 3:16 is one of the most quoted scriptures in all of the Bible and yet it remains one of the most profound, deep, meaningful scripture - the depth of which we have not reached
 - a. We could study Egapesen Love for the next year and still not fully understand God's Love with our human (finite) minds
 - b. We give gifts to friends, family, coworkers. He gave to ALL
 - c. Ephesians 2:8 ESV

Reciprocal Giving - Giving Back to God

1. When we Receive, there is an inward automatic response to want to Give
 - a. Matthew 10:8 NLT "...Give as freely as you have received" (words of Jesus)
 - * Blessings (gifts) are for sharing
 - * They foster a cycle of Giving
2. Paul records in Acts 20:35, "You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35b NLT
3. Your Christian "DNA" is programmed to Give as God has given

Biblical (Valued) Giving is Sacrificial Giving

1. Sometimes when we hear "sacrifice" talked about in modern churches it "weirds" people out.
 - a. If you have been in church for a long time - no problem with sacrifice
 - b. Unchurched or Under-churched - sacrifice can be confusing
2. Biblical sacrifices were offerings made to show gratitude, worship and devotion and to atone for sin
 - a. The Gift of God atoned for all sin
 - b. Our gifts (offerings) are brought to Him out of our love and devotion to God
3. Sacrifice - to oversimplify - means it's going to cost you something
 - a. We value something by what it cost
 - b. Does not have to be a monetary cost - Time, Effort, Talent, etc
4. We place more Value the Gifts that come with greater Sacrifice

- a. Abel's Offering - Genesis 4:3-5 NLT Cain offers "some of his crops" while Abel offered the best portions of the firstborn
- b. Moses - Left the comfort of Egypt and was eventually chosen to lead God's people out of Bondage
- c. The Widows Mite - Mark 12:41-44 NLT

Sacrifice (offering - Gifts to God) start at an Altar

- 1. First Altar - Genesis 8:20
- 2. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joshua all built Altars
- 3. Ultimately, Jesus was lifted up on an "Altar" - Cross - as the Sacrificial Gift
- 4. Altars come in all shapes and sizes
 - a. First altars were simply rocks or stones
 - b. Later altars became beautiful pieces of furniture in the temples and synagogue and even into the modern day churches
- 5. The only sacrifice God is looking for on the modern altar is that of you and me
 - a. Not a blood sacrifice - but a LIVING Sacrifice
 - b. Romans 12:1 AMP
 - c. Romans 12:1-2 Message

The Gift - God's Gift - CHRIST JESUS!

The Greatest Gift you can give back to God Today and Everyday is Yourself!