

## Getting the Right Gift

12/13-14/2008

### 1. Jesus came at the right time.

*But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.*

*Galatians chapter 4, verse 4 (892)*

- There was much anticipation for the birth of the Messiah.
- Israel had been waiting for 1000's of years for their promised Messiah.
- God's promise of a Saviour goes all the way back to Genesis 3:15.
- There was 400 years of silence from God before Jesus was born.
- How can we learn to wait on God without losing hope?

Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised, I have seen your salvation."  
*Luke chapter 2, verses 36-38 (781)*

- ✓ "eagerly expected" – waited with hopeful anticipation.
- ✓ We all wait for answers from God, how well we wait is most important.
- ✓ God tests our faith when he makes us wait.
- ✓ All the while Simeon was waiting he was talking and listening to God.
- ✓ God's timing is always perfect!

To us waiting: is frustrating, demoralizing, agonizing, aggravating, annoying, time consuming.  
To God waiting is an opportunity to talk and listen to him. To see how deep our faith is.

### 2. Jesus came to the right place.

All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. *Luke chapter 2, verses 3-4 (781)*

- God was fulfilling the prophecies exactly the way he promised it.
- Jesus was born in the birthplace of David, Israel's greatest King.
- But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.

*Micah chapter 5, verse 2 (706)*

- *When God fulfills one of his promises in my life I am reminded that he never fails!*

And I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save those who are lost."

*Luke chapter 19, verse 10 (801)*

But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he replied, "Healthy people don't need a doctor-sick people do."

*Matthew chapter 9, verse 11-12 (989)*

- ❖ God comes to man because man could never come to God.
- ❖ Jesus always went where the need was the greatest.
- ❖ God is not afraid of the mess in your life.
- ❖ Jesus knows the greatest need in your life.
- ❖ Acknowledge your place of need and invite Jesus there.

### 3. Jesus came in the right way.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. *Luke chapter 2, verses 6-7 (781)*

Mary was part of the “*Anawim*”- poor, afflicted, - “forgotten ones”

Though he was God, he did not think equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. *Philippians chapter 2, verses 6-7 (900)*

- God wanted us to know that he understands how difficult life can be.
- This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. *Hebrews chapter 4, verse 15 (922)*
- Do I understand how much Jesus gave up to be with me?
- Jesus showed me how to live life selflessly.

God did not send his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. *John chapter 3, verse 17 (811)*

- At his first coming Jesus came to offer forgiveness and mercy.
- At his second coming he will conquer his enemies and restore heaven and earth.
- Forgiveness will be the most valuable gift you will ever receive!
- We are most like God when we are offering forgiveness.
- To whom do you need to offer forgiveness?

Want More?

- Read the prophecies of Jesus birth in Isaiah 7 & 9, Micah 5.
- What does God promise in those passages?
- Read the stories of people who waited for God’s answer, such as,
  - Abraham & Sarah in Genesis 18 & 21 and Job
- What areas of growth was God trying to develop in them?
- Read the story of Anna in Luke 2: 36-38
- What can be learned from her response to Jesus birth?
- Read 2 Samuel 7: 12-16, why is it important that Jesus was born in Bethelhem?
- What happens when I choose to judge a person instead of forgiving them?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6-7 to gain more understand of judging.
- Read Philippians 2:5-7- What exactly did Jesus give up to come to earth?
- If I am “to be conformed to the image of Christ” then what does Philippians 2:5-7 mean for me.

Next Week- Doing Christmas Differently