

What Does
GOD
Want for
Christmas?



The First Gift: The gift of helping outsiders become insiders.

Matthew 2:9

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Luke 2:8-11, 13

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord...” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel...

The heartbeat of the Christmas story is God’s great desire that lost people find his Son!

Luke 15:3-7

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Second Gift: The gift of a surrendered heart.

Luke 1:26-27, 38 - In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary... And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Matthew 1:24 - When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Matthew 2:13-14, 19-21

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt... After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.” So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

“Most of the problems of a Christian’s life can be traced to two related sources: sin (ours and others) and failure to submit to the Lordship of Christ. We do not yield or surrender to Christ and as a result we fall easy prey to Satan and sin.”

Francis Cosgrove, Essentials of Discipleship

Matthew 2:11 – On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Luke 2:13 – Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God.

Luke 2:20 – The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:28 – Simeon took him in his arms and praised God...

Luke 2:38 – Coming up to them at that very moment, Anna gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Third Gift: The gift of passionate worship.

Matthew 2:16

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.



***The Fourth Gift:
To love, to serve,
to affirm, to care for,
to bless,
to minister
to a child
in need.***