

“Jesus Christ, Gift of God”

Jonathan Landis

12/9/05

Luke 1:26-38 NASB

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, [27] to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. [28] And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." [29] But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. [30] And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. [31] "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. [32] "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; [33] and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." [34] And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" [35] And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. [36] "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. [37] "For nothing will be impossible with God." [38] And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

1. Christ is the Greatest Gift Ever Given!!!

Vs 32 -He is GREAT!!!

-He is the Son of God (Son of the Most High). There's no greater gift than the Son of God!!! Think about it, the very God of all the universe offered us His son. That is awesome!!!

Vs 33 -Jesus is the only gift that lasts forever!!! "He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have NO END."

ASK: Did you ever get a Christmas gift that you really wanted and then in just a few weeks or months it broke???

Ex.) Tara got a porcelain sugar dish that looked like a cow, and a matching cream dish. Just a few weeks after she got it, it fell down and the head broke off!!! Now there is a plant where the head once was.

Ex.) Almost every Christmas between the ages of 7 and 13 I would ask for some kind of remote control car.

I thought they were the COOLEST thing I could get for Christmas... and most of the time just a few months after Christmas my remote control car would stop working or get cached in the bottom of my bedroom closet, never to be driven again.

The stuff you might get for Christmas this year is just temporary, it will last for a while, but eventually it's no good anymore. Jesus is the only Gift that lasts forever. God's Gift to us will last for all time, and even when time is no more, Jesus Christ will remain!!!

2. Christ Is God's Gift to the World

Vs 35 -Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. In other words, God made it happen. It wasn't the normal way to make a baby. Mary was a virgin, and Joseph and Mary kept it that way, until after Jesus was born. If you don't know what that means, ask your parents later.

God is the One that caused Jesus to be born. Jesus was His gift to all mankind.

John 3:16-18 NIV

"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. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

God loved the whole world so much that He sent Jesus to be born, and eventually to die for all of us. So the reason God gave us Jesus was because He loved us so much.

Christ was born to save the world through His death and resurrection. He was the only child ever born, Who's primary purpose of life, was in His death. He was born to die!!! God sent Christ to be born as a gift to us, so that through His death we could have eternal LIFE. We have earned death because of our sin, but God purchased life for us with His gift, Jesus Christ.

3. Only the Willing, Receive the Gift (vs. 38)

-What does that mean???

Imagine this: God sends an angel to Mary and tells her, "Hey girl, you're going to have a baby and He's going to be God's Son!!!" What if she had said back, "No way Gabriell!!! That's way too freaky for me. God can find some other girl to give Jesus too."

-If that had happened would Mary have gone down in history, being known as the "Virgin Mary", the "Mother of Jesus"??? I don't think so. God gives us a choice. He waits for us to agree to receive the gift, or else He won't give it to us. Jesus doesn't force Himself into our lives. Mary agreed to have Christ conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit. She received the Gift of being the woman to carry Christ in her belly. Her gift was to be the Mother of Jesus.
-Our gift from God is His Son which is offered to you and to the world. Only them that say, "Yes I will accept Jesus as God's gift to me," will receive Him.

Example: Offer a wrapped gift to whoever wants it. The first one that comes up and grabs it gets to open it and have it.

Any of you could have received that gift, but you didn't come and get it. It was offered to you, but you didn't take it. Such it is with God's Gift to us. God offers Jesus to the whole world, but only the willing receive the Gift.

Altar Call:

-Have you received the Gift of God??? God's offered you salvation. All you need to do is believe. Believe in Christ's miraculous birth by a virgin. Believe in His perfect sacrifice on a cross, and believe in Jesus resurrection from the dead. To receive the Gift of God is simple, but it will cost you your own will. You must consider the cost. To receive the Gift of God will change your life. Believe me, it's not always easy, but it is SO WORTH IT.

To receive we must, as Mary did, say "May it be done to me according to your word."

Pray Together:

May it be done to me according to your word. I believe in You, Jesus I believe You were sent by God as a gift to me, and to all that would receive. I receive the gift of God to me. I receive Jesus, the Savior, as my Savior. I commit also to sharing with others about the Gift of God