



Twenty-five Days of Christmas

Daily Devotions Days 1-7



Jesus is the Best Christmas Gift

November 30

John 1:1–5 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

We begin today the journey toward Christmas, the gift giving season. We need to always remember that Jesus is the Best gift. You may give away one gift or a hundred this season, but make sure you give away Jesus as a gift to someone.

Light is coming into the darkness is an important image always, but especially at Christmas. There was the great light that accompanied the angels who greeted the shepherds out in their fields. Then there was the light of a star shining bright at night and day that drew in the Wisemen. This light broke through the darkness of night, but also shown so bright that it was seen during the day.

Every person we meet from family members to strangers has dark moments and dark thoughts. Some are better at pushing the darkness out of the way. Jesus is the only who can remove darkness of sin. This is why He is the Best gift.

In the excitement of the next twenty-five days we will encounter a dark moment, call upon Jesus. A family member or friend will face a dark moment. Remind them that the creator of the world is the light that outshines the darkness.

Be intentional the next twenty-five days of creating a new habit of being the light of Jesus Christ.

December 1

John 1:9–14 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

For me Christmas is the season of grace. Every season can be a season of grace. What I mean is grace is receiving blessings that I don't deserve. I've done nothing to earn the blessings, but they come to me. At Christmas you and I are recipients of grace in the form of gifts. We've done nothing to earn the gifts, but the givers of the gifts are gracious and generous. They bless us with a gift.

I have seen Jesus with my spiritual eyes. I have experienced His grace and unfailing love. I know firsthand His faithfulness. Jesus is for me beyond the words I know and understand. I could use every word that describes Him and I wouldn't even come close to the glory He deserves.

The next twenty-four days are an opportunity to plan family gatherings, buy special gifts for special people, put decorations, and maybe bake some sweet surprises for the people you love. While you are doing these things give Jesus the glory. Praise His name. Give thanks to Him.

December 2

Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

There's twenty-one days to go. Are you getting ready? These days are going to be busy. You and I will have lots of things to do. We won't feel like we're getting all of it done. So, go. Get at it. Get to the all the Christmas stuff.

Truly, I heard a voice say to me, "Go". I fought it for a long time. Finally, I said to Jesus, "I will go". Jesus has blessed me everyday of my life. He has made into a new person. I want others to know Jesus especially in this season of celebrating His birth.

We're not talking about Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Santa or any of these non-existent characters. Jesus is alive, He came into this world to save us, redeem us, and deliver us from the power of sin providing us with a new life. He is the Best gift.

Stop. Make sure that in the next twenty-one days you stop doing Christmas stuff that isn't important. Be willing to stop doing whatever is happening in your life that keeps you from hearing God tell you that He loves you. Christmas is more about God's love than it is stuff.

Go, make sure someone you know knows that Jesus loves them.

December 3

Romans 6:23b the gift of God is eternal life in JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

So, the Christmas season has arrived and that means shopping for gifts! What does your gift giving look like? Does everyone buy a gift for everyone else? Do you draw names and buy a gift for one person? Maybe your family does a Chinese gift exchange with people "stealing" from each other. Or perhaps you buy a gift for the whole family. Gift cards and cash are the choice for many. Whatever your gift-giving traditions might be, shopping and deciding can lead to stressful times. And with all that stress, who remembers gifts from past Christmas's? Who gave you what, and where is it now?

As you do your Christmas gift shopping this year, stop and take time to think about the good and perfect gift that is given to each of us by God Himself. Romans 6:23b tells us that "the gift of God is eternal life in JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD." Do you know someone who needs the hope of eternal life with God? Share your walk with Jesus. Give them THE GIFT: JESUS!

December 4

Luke 2:30-31 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and will bring forth a Son, and call His name Jesus."

Once the Christmas season begins (and it gets earlier and earlier each year) many families will celebrate with their annual traditions. Traditions such as: cookie baking day with Grandma, bringing the tree into the house, tree trimming party, gathering to sing carols followed by hot chocolate, seeing the Nutcracker, and of course coming together to exchange gifts. Traditions can be a lot of work; but they can also be a lot of fun. If you asked your family members what they most looked forward to for next Christmas; what might they say?

Many, many people look forward to some kind of family gathering. They would say that Christmas is all about family. Nothing wrong with enjoying your family; but Christmas is not ALL about family. Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of that little baby: our Savior Jesus Christ. Without His birth there would be no remission for our sins; and we wouldn't be looking forward to the glory ahead of us in Heaven. Now we can celebrate that glory.

A woman once said she hated the abbreviation Xmas. She bemoaned the fact that “Christ” had been taken out of Christmas. Let’s remember to include Christ in our Christmas traditions. Celebrate Him. Celebrate His presence in those of us who believe. Have fun and enjoy your family traditions, but don’t leave Christ out. In fact if there is someone in your family who doesn’t know Him, share the gospel with them as you share the true meaning of Christmas.

December 5

Luke 2:13,14 “Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest And on earth peace, good will toward men’.”

The shepherds are a familiar part of the Christmas story found in Scripture. They were out in the countryside, taking care of the sheep. Picture the night. It’s quiet. The sheep have settled, and the shepherds must surely be somewhat relaxed. When who should appear before them but the angel of the Lord! The shepherds were afraid, as we would be had we been there. The glory of the Lord was shining around them. Imagine it!

The angel shared God’s message to the shepherds: today your Savior has been born! Again, imagine what the shepherds must have been thinking and doing. Luke 2:13,14 tells us that “Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest And on earth peace, good will toward men’.” Wish you were there? Wish you had experienced the glory of God? Well, guess what! The glory of God is coming for all of us who carry Jesus in our hearts. What an amazing time it will be: when we experience His glory personally. Share Jesus this Christmas season with someone who needs to know Him. Help them to have His great glory to look forward to with you.

December 6

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

The Christmas season is in full swing. Many of us will be sending and receiving cards. Some of us carefully choose cards that share the “joy” of the season. That word – joy – is used a lot at Christmastime. We find it on cards; but we also find it in many of the Christmas carols we sing, in the messages we hear from pastors, in the Christmas Scriptures we study, and even in the commercials and ads we see constantly during this time of year.

Many people will say that they en”joy” Christmastime; but the rest of their year is often “joy”less. How sad for them! Have they not heard? Do they not know? In John 15:11 Jesus Himself said: “These things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” The superficial Joys of the Christmas season can not compare to the joy of Jesus Christ in us. People need to see the fullness of joy that’s in believers. Share your joy with them. Share it at Christmas; and keep sharing it the whole year round.