

# LIFE LESSONS FROM THE CHRISTMAS STORY LUKE 1:26-38

We have walked a few days away from Christmas, and many people are taking down their decorations, putting away, the Christmas tree, and going about their normal life routine, as they did beforehand.

Sadly, in the midst of Christmas, and all that is involved, the hustle and the bustle that we fail to actually stop and mentally think and ponder all the wonder that God did in the sending of His Son.

While the Christmas story is the revelation of God's wonderful love for mankind in the giving of His Son, Jesus to become flesh and know the full human experience, and die on a cross for our sins, it is also the revelation of how God works in the world, and how God works in the lives of people.

The Christmas story is God working in the life of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and many others just to name a few. In the Christmas story are life lessons regarding the nature of God, and what He desires to do in man and for man.

If you read the Christmas story thinking only of the past, and events of yesteryear, you are tremendously missing the wonder and the message of Christ in and through Christmas. There are thousands of life lessons that God gives in and through the Christmas narrative, that the Lord God yearns for us to grab! Absorb! And never let go!

**1. GOD HAS A LOVE FOR YOU THAT YOU WE WILL NEVER COMPREHEND.** We know it, we say it, we hear it...but we still struggle to comprehend the awesome fact of the love of God. The truth of Christmas is the sobering reality that the God of the universe will give His absolute best for the rottenness of sinful, wicked, ungodly man. Why? Because God has a love for you and me that in all our earthly life we will never understand.

His love caused Him to release His Son from heaven. His love caused motivated Him to give His best...His Son for man. Sometimes we here someone say, "God if You loved me...You would do this or that". The truth is you can never be unloved by God. The eternal nature of God will always respond to us in personal and perfect love. If God closes a door, He does so in love! If God disciplines, He does so with love! If God alters the course of your life...He does in love!

Intimate love is simply His nature toward us. He can do nothing less. Everything that we face walking into a new year...we face with the full overflowing love of God behind it. We may walk back in disobedience, walk away from God in rebellion, but we can never be unloved by the God who created us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he

gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

God's nature always causes Him to respond to us in love in a personal, and deliberate way. God can never respond to us in impersonal ways. Why? Because He is a personal, intimate and loving God. When we realize that God always expresses nothing less than pure personal love to our lives, we will change in our response from reluctance to obedience.

**2. GOD'S PRIORITY IN LIFE IS TO LOVE US AND REVEAL THAT LOVE TO US IN PERSONAL AND INTIMATE WAYS.** Have you ever allowed yourself to think that the God of all creation has a priority over your life, and that priority is to love you. When you awaken in the morning, it is the nature of God to love you. But His love can never be expressed in "impersonal ways". Why? Because God is a personal God...and God cannot change.

When Jesus came into the world, He didn't come to teach religion to the world, but rather to reveal to the world the love of the Father for all mankind.

Listen to what Scripture says, "John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. Jesus said, the Father has revealed to me His love...now I reveal to You my love. Put in a simple way, God used Jesus to relay to a world, the awesome, and wonderful love He has for us with each passing day.

Why would God take the initiative to send His one and only Son into the world through a virgin, to be born in an obscure place, to live a sinless life and to die a cruel death on the cross?

The only answer is this...God's priority is to love us, and in loving us He did everything He could to rescue mankind from a fate that is worse than death. God didn't have to do a single thing that He did...but He did it out of His absolute unwavering love for us, and that love cannot and will not ever alter or fade away.

**3. GOD'S LOVE FOR US ALWAYS CAUSES HIM TO GIVE HIS BEST FOR US.** We hear the story of God's love...but have you seriously stopped to think that the God that loves you always moves to bring about the best in our lives. Consider the creation...man was given the best. Why? Because that is simply the nature of God.

The story of Christmas is the revelation that God moves heaven and earth, and all the worlds...because He yearned to bring man back to a wonderful relationship with Him through His Son.

The story of Christmas...is the revelation that God was pursuing mankind through His Son in order that we could come to know, and experience the love of God. Now think about it a minute...if God will not

withhold His only Son that we can have a relationship with Him...He will not withhold any good thing from us...if we are willing to ask. Romans 8:32, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for all, how shall he not with him also free give us all things?"

The sobering truth of Almighty God is this...the love of God causes Him to give to us...mere man, mere mortal man, His amazing and wonderful best. The devil wants mankind to believe that God is a harsh, hard, dogmatic God...that begrudges giving us one single thing...but that is a lie. How much does God love us, since He gave us the most dear and precious thing that He has. When you struggle wondering if God will give to you the things that are needful for this life, back up and stop for a moment and realize the fact, that He gave everything in His Son. Since God gave His Son for us, everything else pales in comparison. He loves to give good gifts to those who will ask!

**4. GOD TAKES GREAT DELIGHT IN GIVING US HIS BEST.** Because we live in a world where people keep the best for themselves and give away less than the best, we struggle comprehending this truth. Yet, Christmas is the divine revelation from God that reveals the price of the gift God will give to the world. He willingly delighted in giving the life blood of His Son. He wasn't sitting in heaven regret over giving His Son. The picture was God "so loving the world" that he freely gave His Son...for us.

The manger was where Jesus would be born, but the truth was He was going to the cross. Why? One simple reason to be God's payment for sin. In order that He could release to us His best through a relationship with Jesus Christ. When we really get the picture that God yearns to give us His best, we will stop fighting against Him. After all, why would you dare fight with One who wants only "The absolute best for our lives". Yet, sadly many people do. They fight against a God who yearns only to bring His best in to their lives.

God takes the initiative to bring into our lives His best...THROUGH HIS SON...a gift that will not perish and fade away. Think about it! You can lose money! Health! Stock portfolio! But you can never lose a relationship with Jesus Christ. Because it is the character of God to give us those things that last for all eternity. It goes against the nature of God to give us "fleeting and passing things".

**5. GOD ORCHESTRATES HIS BEST ONLY COMES THROUGH A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.** Better than 2000 years ago, God told a precious young virgin that she would bear a child, and they were to call his name Jesus, for it was He that was going to save His people from their sins.

Why in the world would God allow His only

begotten Son to be released from heaven into a world of suffering, wickedness, ungodliness, and rebellion?

Because God knew that mankind could only experience the life that He desired through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In reality by God's standards we were "locked out" of His good things. God gave His Son for the simple reason that God knew mankind could never know or experience joy, peace, happiness, tranquility, apart from a relationship with Christ. To every person that has invited Christ into their life, they have experienced...not a temporary change, not a momentary change, but an eternal change. God yearns for all mankind to be at peace with Him, and have intimate joy, and abundant living every single day. Sadly, many fail to, because of their rebellion to God. Yet, God wants us to have his love, but it comes only through a person, namely Jesus Christ. When any person allows Jesus into their heart, they find themselves a new person...not because they tried harder, but because they have the "eternal, loving, caring, kind God of the universe" living in them in the person of Jesus Christ.

**6. GOD INITIATES ALL THINGS FOR HIS GLORY AND THE BENEFIT OF MAN.** When the fullness of time had come and Jesus was to be born into the world, the ultimate goal of Jesus life was death. Jesus was born to die, and in his death it would benefit not only those living during his earthly life but it would benefit all mankind for all time. Scripture declares that "He would save his people from their sins." (See Mt. 1:21)

God never initiates anything but what it brings glory to His name and doesn't benefit mankind as well. The story of the opening chapters of Genesis is the revelation that God placed mankind in the best garden for His glory and for man's best.

The story of Christmas is that God initiated the forgiveness of sin by allowing His Son to become flesh and know the total human experience. (See Phil. 2:7)

Failure to know that God initiates all things for His glory and man's best is to live with a misunderstanding of the nature and character of God. It is locked within the nature and character of God only to do that which brings Him glory and to do that which is loving toward mankind.

While there are many things we cannot completely understand in this body, that doesn't change the fact that God sees what is overall best for our lives and out of His abiding and personal love, will orchestrate our lives, as we are willing to walk in personal and daily obedience to Him.