

**Devotional Thoughts**  
**The Month of December**

**THEME: The Gift of Christmas**

**Scripture Lesson:** “And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born; and she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.”

*Luke 2:6-7*

**W**hat’s the most memorable gift you’ve ever received? Can you remember who gave it to you? It may not have been a gift of monetary value, but it meant a lot to you. I remember my children, Joice, Janis, James, and Debra would be tickled to give me a gift, and as I began to open it, they would sit with big smiles on their faces. They were full of excitement as they watched me open them because they wrapped them with their own hands and scribbled my name on the tag. They wanted me to be just as excited to get the gifts as they were to give them.

That’s how each of us feels when we give what we know will bring someone happiness. Have you even given a gift and watched the expression of happiness and joy on the face of the receiver? That’s a blessed feeling. If you and I can feel blessed this way, think about how God must feel when He blesses us. But with all that He has given us, the greatest gift is His Son Jesus Christ.

Consider with me why Jesus is the greatest gift of all:

**I. Christ came as a very humble gift for the purpose of serving humanity.** He was born in a lowly place and laid in a trough used to feed animals. The only people other than Mary and Joseph to bear witness of this glorious occasion were a band of lowly shepherds. During His ministry, Jesus said: **“I came not to be served, but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many”** (Mark 10:45). Here was the Son of God, covered and cloaked in by the very essence of humility.

**II. The gift of Christ came from heaven.** John 6:38 says, **“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who**

**sent Me.”** Think about all of the gifts you’ve ever received. You could trace every one of them back to having been made or created. But you and I have the gift of Christ as our Savior, a gift from heaven that was not made. Jesus has always existed with God. He said, **“I and My Father are one”** (John 10:30)

**III. Christ also came as a much needed gift.** He came to seek and to save that which is lost. Jesus came that all of us might be forgiven of our sins, and not only forgiven, but also set free from all of the bondages of sin. He came to meet the need in our lives.

Dr. James E. Russell, Jr.  
Presiding Elder