

Sunday Leftovers

Advent Conspiracy - Give More

There is something deeply moving, beautiful and meaningful about certain gifts because especially those that are grounded in a relationship. Someone knew something intimate about you and gave you something that either met a deep, not-obvious need or expressed the kind of love that we all long for.

One reason that this is such a meaningful way to give is that it reflects so closely the gift we received in the birth of Christ. It met a deep need that many of us aren't even aware of- a need for saving from death and healing from sin and brokenness. But it also expressed to us the very depth of God's love- the kind of love that all of us are starving for.

God's answer for the world's problems has never been material things. God did not give us more stuff- even good stuff like work, food, or health. He gave us himself. The most priceless and personal gift of all. This is why giving is still a good way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Apart from the incarnation, we would never fully know the depths to which we are loved or the lengths to which God can be trusted. That's what we celebrate each Christmas. When we give relationally during the Advent season, this is what we remember: it's an opportunity to worship as we remind each other of the gift that was given for our sake.

1. What part of Matt's sermon impacted you the most? Why?
2. Why do we give gifts to each other at Christmas time?
3. What do you think was the greatest gift given in the Christmas story? Why?
4. What were the three gifts the "magi" brought? Why do you think that these specific gifts were chosen?
5. How do the "gifts of the magi" illustrate the idea of "give more?"
6. What are some ways that you can give the gift of "presence," this Christmas, to those you love?

Scripture references:

Matthew 2:1-12; John 1:1-4,14,18; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:17; 4:15; Isaiah 7:14