

# CHRISTMAS GIVING

Luke 1:26-38

Christmas is a season of giving (Employers; parents).

Everyone in the Christmas story gave something. Let's look at what people gave in the first Christmas...

## I. **Mary's giving** (Luke 1:38—"handmaid" = bond-slave). BODY

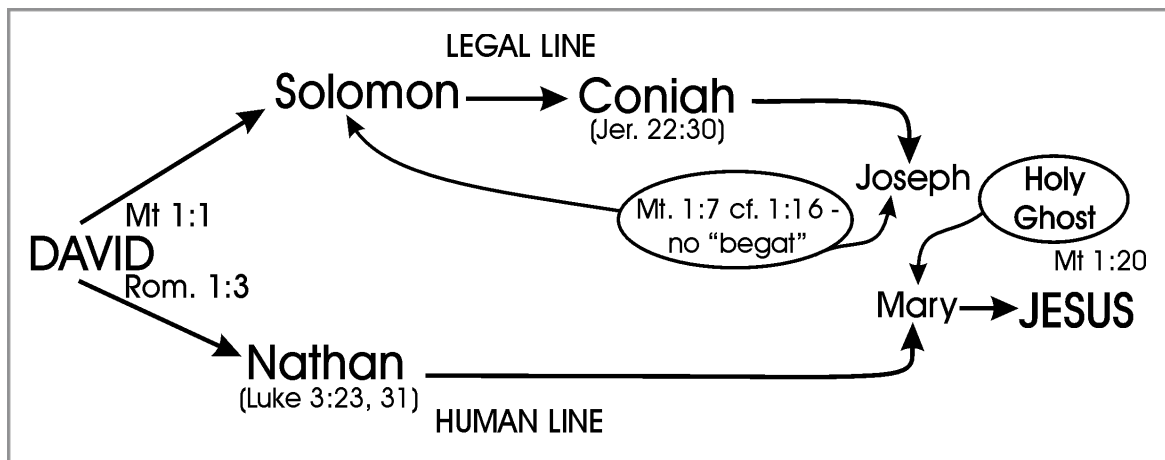
A. She gave her body.

B. Submission—She was completely given over to God. – **"Lord"**

She was at the Lord's disposal. Despite whatever humiliation she may bear, she offered her body to be used of the Lord for His purposes. She yielded the rights of her life to the Lord.

- Willing to lose her reputation.
- Willing to suffer misunderstanding.
- Willing to jeopardize her marriage to Joseph.
- All for the joy of knowing she was being used of God

## II. **Joseph's giving** — Legal Rights to David's THRONE (Luke 1:32).



A. His **humanity** (as Son of Man). Luke's genealogy of Christ records His **human** line (through David's son Nathan — Luke 3:23, 31).

B. His **royalty** (as King of the Jews). Matthew's genealogy of Christ records His **kingly** line

1. Through David's son Solomon [Mt. 1:7] to Joseph.
2. The amazing prophecy concerning Coniah (Jer. 22:28-30).
3. No "begat" in Mt. 1:16.

## III. **The innkeeper's giving** (Luke 2:7). LEFT-OVERS

➡ He did give *something*... A manger to be born in.

- A. What kind of person sends a VERY pregnant woman out to the barn?
- B. How would this innkeeper reacted if he knew Mary was carrying the Messiah in her womb? He would have either given up his own room or kicked out those occupying the best room in the inn.
- C. But not for this poor couple. They are just another couple who probably didn't have money to pay anyway. Send them out to the barn.
- D. Before we are too critical of the innkeeper, is it possible that we may be more like this innkeeper than we would care to admit—**Are we giving God our left-overs** (if we have any left-overs).

#### **IV. The shepherd's giving** (Luke 2:8-17, 20).

- A. They gave their witness (v. 17).
- B. They gave their praise (v. 20).

#### **V. Wise men's giving** (Mt. 2:11).

- A. They gave their worship
- B. They gave their wealth.

#### **VI. The Father's giving** — HEAVEN'S BEST

➔ He gave His Son (John 3:16; Rom. 8:32).

- Galatians 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come, **God sent forth his Son**, made of a woman, made under the law,*
- 1 John 4:9-10 *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that **God sent his only begotten Son** into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and **sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.***

#### **VII. The Lord Jesus Christ's giving.** (*"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"* — Phil. 2:5-6). 2 Cor. 8:9—*"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."*

- A. He gave up His fellowship in heaven.

1. He left His majestic throne—laid aside his diamond studded scepter—His royal diadem— His robes of splendor...
2. He left the glories of the heavenly host.
3. He came to a poor virgin's womb.
  - ➡ There was no welcome committee awaiting Him.
  - ➡ There was no soft bedding to be laid in—only swaddling clothes in a manger.
  - ➡ The only open door for Him was a BARN DOOR.
    - He who was rich—was BORN in another man's STABLE.
    - He who was rich—ATE at another man's table.
    - He who was rich—RODE upon another man's donkey.
    - He who was rich—SLEPT on another man's pillow.
    - He who was rich—SAILED in another man's boat.
    - He who was rich—was BURIED in another man's tomb.

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- He who was the Bread of Life suffered hunger.
  - He who was the Water of Life cried, "*I thirst.*"
  - He who was omnipotent became weary.
  - He who was worshipped became despised and rejected.
  - He who answered the prayers of saints prayed in Gethsemane with great drops of blood.
  - He who owned the silver in every mine was betrayed with 30 pieces of silver.
  - He who was praised by the heavenly host at His birth was booed by a hostile mob crying, "Crucify Him!"
  - He who wore a crown of glory, wore a crown of thorns.
  - He who made all the trees on the earth was crucified on a tree He created.

➡ WHAT DID JESUS BECOME?

- He who was God, became man.
- He who was Lord, became a servant.
- He who was Spirit, became flesh.
- He who was strong, became weak.
- He who was rich, became poor.
- He who knew no sin, BECAME SIN for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21).

B. His life on the cross for our sins.

C. He gives the gift of eternal life to all who will receive Him (John 10:28; Rom. 6:23).

**SUMMATION:** Have you received the greatest gift of all—The gift of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ? He offers it you, but you must receive it by faith.

**What can you give this Christmas...**

- Like Mary, you can give Christ your **body** (Rom. 12:1-2).
- Like Joseph, you can give Christ the **rights to your throne**.
- Like the shepherds, you can give Christ your **praise and testimony**.
- Like the wise men, you can give Christ your **worship and treasures**.
- Like God the Father, you can give **your very best**.
- Or, like the innkeeper, you can give Christ **whatever is left-over**.