

The Promise of Christmas: Each week we are looking at one or more of the OT prophecies...and the Promise it makes

1: "God Gets It!" And

"He Can Do Something About It!"

#2: "God Gives Good Gifts!"

James 1:17: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

Christmas as a kid was different for my family. 90% what we got? Clothes We got a toy or two...but Christmas was about NEED...not WANT. At the time...I didn't understand how GOOD the gifts were! Looking back I do...so glad

Read with me a prophecy in the book of Isaiah...and lets look together at some of the Good Gifts God Gives!

Isaiah 9:2; 6-7 Page 489

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor..."

This is a promise of the OT that was fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus. In fact, this is the passage Jesus chose to announce the beginning of His public ministry. Lived to age of about 30: Baptism of JB; Temptation in Wilderness: Went Home

Luke 4:14-21 Page 727

Read the Prophecy...THEN He did something amazing...Vs 20: Everyone watching...TODAY FULFILLED!

Two ways I want us to look together at the Good Gifts God Gives us based on this passage.

The Gifts He Gives TO Us!

The Gifts He Gives THROUGH Us!

1. Three Good Gifts God Gives TO Us!

Luke 4:18-19

- **God gives us the gift of spiritual power through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**
Anointed w/Holy Spirit: Lit = *to rub with oil!* Got Jesus ALL over you! Rub with HS so you have spiritual power
Illus: (Essential Oils) Put stuff on you and it does something...Helps heal, headache pass, protect
Not only that...but teaching of NT is that not only is He ON you but the HS is IN you!
~OT: Came for a specific purpose...anointed to accomplish task, then leave
~NT: Comes to live and dwell in you to empower you to live for and serve God
God not only calls us to live for Him...He empowers us to do that by the presence of HS in our lives! (Wait for HS)
- **God Gives Us Spiritual Purpose!** He calls and sends us to those around us that are in desperate need of Him!
He has SENT me! (Apostle) Lit = *to send out on a mission; to commission and send with a specific task.*
This is part of the amazing relationship we have with Jesus. Not only does He Bless us personally, He also gives us spiritual purpose. He USES us to make an eternal difference in peoples lives!
In exactly the same way Jesus was sent...He has sent us...to touch people and bring them to God
Joh 20:21 "Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Breathed...Receive HS!
Think about that! God INVITES You and I into His work! And...He gives us the power to get it done!
- **God Makes Us His Personal Messenger: He has sent me to Preach and Proclaim!**
Sent: Apostle: Herald: *Representative of King to announce in public square*
Lit = Preach: Lit = Evangelize : *to announce the good news of God forgiveness: Sharing Jesus with others*
Lit = Proclaim: Lit = Herald: *to stand in public square and say...God is here! Gods favor available!*

One of what we do is more specific: Evangelize...the other much more generic. Herald: Acceptable Day of the LORD
We are empowered and sent to do both! Being a part of what God wants to do in our world is one of the amazing Gifts He gives!
Part of what we do is tell everyone...*You can know God!* He is actively interested in seeking and finding YOU
We hear than and we think...I can't do that...I know know the words, I don't know how...I can't find the right way.
Lk 12:11-12 Don't worry what you will say...HS will give you the words!

AMAZING OPPORTUNITY: WE SPEAK FOR THE KING OF UNIVERSE: GOOD NEWS!

2. Five Good Gifts God Gives To Others Through Us! Luke 4:18-19

As wonderful as it is to get gifts...it is so much better to give them

Our tradition is to gather...bag for wrapping paper and boxes. Take turns opening Gifts.

Boring part, is opening my gifts. Good part...Watching the face of my kids, my wife...when I have given them something GOOD!

Jesus told us that, right? One day when saying Goodbye to church leaders in Ephesus he said:

Ac 20:35 "remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

- **Gives us the opportunity to share Good News of the Gospel with others who need Jesus!**
Anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor! 1 Cor 15: Gospel?
One of the things I am doing now is spending time young pastors. 2-3 times last week I was with them 1-1 and Group
Each time I listened first...telling me how hard it is to do what we do...true... Esp Christmas
Every time I said the exact same thing. We are blessed! We have the privilege of being the point of the spear
God chose YOU and I to open the door of eternity for others! Sometimes there to pray, sometimes start convo
Applic: Do you know someone...that needs to hear the Good News of the Gospel? Sent, Empowered, Gifted

