



TLC CONNECT



“Gifts for Jesus”

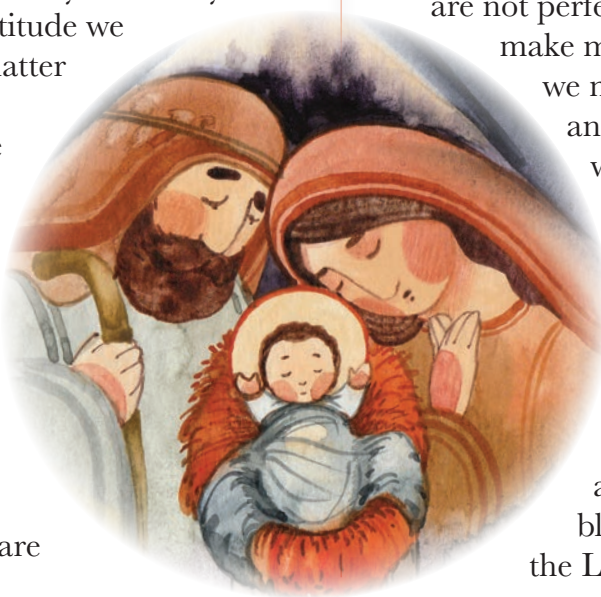
Friday - Dec. 24, 2021

If you could only give one gift to Jesus Christ what would it be? What kind of gift would He want? Jesus said, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34). The very best gift we could give to Jesus Christ would be to change a part of ourselves that is not in harmony with Christ's teachings. Here are some gifts we could give to our Savior.

December 25th

GRATITUDE

One of the most important gifts I believe we should give to our Savior is our gratitude. We should give thanks to Jesus for all that He has done (and continues to do) for us because everything we are, everything we have, and everything we will be and have in the future all comes from Him. Start giving the gift of thanks by reading biblical scriptures on gratitude. Our Savior loves us and accepts any and every gift of gratitude we give, no matter how small or humble it may be. As we give Christ the gift of ourselves, we will be the ones who are blessed.



December 26th

REPENTANCE

Repentance is one of the most powerful ways in which we can show unto Him our gratitude. When you stumble, pick yourself back up, repent, and continue to move forward. Gratitude is also the foundation upon which repentance is built. The Atonement brought mercy through repentance to balance justice.... Repentance is essential to salvation. We are mortal — we are not perfect — we will make mistakes. When we make mistakes and do not repent, we suffer. Not only does repentance cleanse us of our sins but it makes us worthy to receive additional blessings, which the Lord is eager to

bestow upon us. Following the steps of repentance truly is a simple, yet powerful, way to give thanksgiving to God.

I John 1:8-9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

December 27th

PRAYER

Another way of showing our gratitude to God is through prayer. Prayer is an essential part of conveying appreciation to our Heavenly Father. He awaits our expressions of gratefulness each morning and night in sincere, simple prayer from our hearts for our many blessings, gifts, and talents.

Through expression of prayer, we show our dependence upon a higher source of wisdom and knowledge.... We are taught to 'live in thanksgiving daily.' (Psalms 34:38)

Keep your own prayer journal. It is a wonderful blessing and has helped many to show thanksgiving to God!

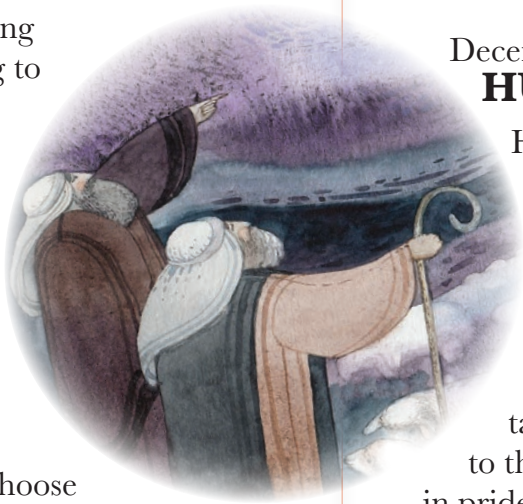
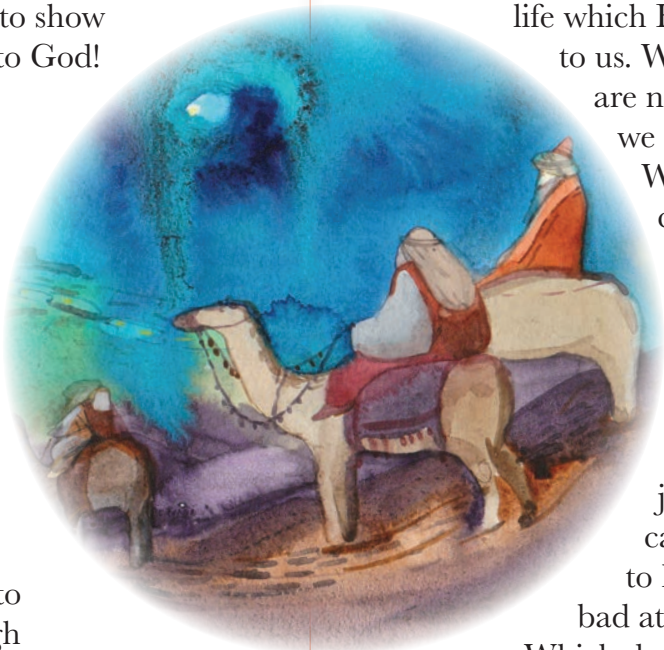
December 28th
SERVE

I believe that one of the most profound ways in which we can truly give thanksgiving to God is through serving him by serving others. He told us that: "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40)

Thus, we know that to give thanksgiving to God we can serve Him, and to serve Him all we need to do is serve others. It is so simple. All it takes is a little planning and personal sacrifice and even then, many opportunities to serve our fellowmen will arise when the Lord knows we are willing and seeking to serve each other.

December 29th
JOY

The Lord created us to have joy. When we choose to have a positive attitude and to live our lives in joy, we are showing our thanksgiving



to God. We are showing to Him that we are grateful for our very life which He's given to us. When we are negative, we are not. We can choose to have joy through an attitude of gratitude, just as we can choose to have a bad attitude.

Which do you think

God would have us choose?

Jesus Christ loves you, He suffered for you, He died for you, and He wants you to have joy. If there is something in your life that is keeping you from experiencing a fullness of joy, then now is the time to turn your life over to the Lord and accept His help in making and achieving your goals because they are His goals too.

December 30th
HUMILITY

Humility begets gratitude, while pride begets ingratitude.

In the parable of the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:9-14), Jesus Christ taught what happens to those who are lifted in pride and those who are humble. He said: For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles

himself will be exalted.

In the face of adversity, we must make a choice. We can react to our afflictions by becoming humble and thankful, or we can become angry and bitter. As we choose to be humble, we are showing thanksgiving to God. We are showing to Him that we have faith in Him, that we trust Him. We may not know God's plan for us, but as we humble ourselves, especially in adversity, we are submitting ourselves to His will.

December 31st
COMMITMENT

An excellent way to show thanksgiving to Christ is by committing yourself to becoming more like Christ in one or more

specific areas in your life. It can either be by

committing to stop or starting a new good habit. The Lord does not expect us to change instantly, but He does expect us to work toward change. The only way to truly change ourselves for the better is to commit yourself to trying. Even if you have struggled in the past with the commitments you have made (as we all have) this should not prevent you from making new goals as this shows how committed you are to truly pursuing a deeper, more devoted walk with Christ. You can do it. Believe in yourself because God believes in you! *This devotional composed by Sarah Dawdy.*

