

Saving Christmas from Amazon

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Southside Baptist Church
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Passage [READ IT]: John 3:16

Principle [KNOW IT]

The motivation of the Giver: Love

The substance of the gift: God gives us Himself

The beneficiaries of the gift: Anyone willing to receive it

Practices [DO THEM]

1. Give your time and presence to people (see the Advent Calendar Challenge)
2. Make your most expensive gift one that delivers Jesus to the world
3. Do things for people who could or would not do anything for you

Daily Readings:

Sunday: Matthew 1

Monday: Matthew 2

Tuesday: Luke 1

Wednesday: Luke 2

Thursday: Acts 3-4

Friday: Acts 6

Saturday: Luke 9

Small Group Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts of encouragement that are connected to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Do you agree that this is "the most wonderful time of the year"? Why, or why not? What makes it (or keeps it from being) so?

This week's message focused on God as the great gift giver. After all, He paid the ultimate price that we might know Jesus. But God has "delivered" His great gift through men and women willing to serve as His agents. Henry Blackaby says that obedience to God is costly to you and those around you. This week we want to look at the price other people have paid to "deliver" Jesus.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Mary & Joseph:
 - a. Read Luke 1:26-38 - What price was Mary asked to pay to deliver Jesus?
 - b. Matthew 1:18-25 - What price was Joseph asked to pay to deliver Jesus?
 - c. Luke 2:1-7 - What additional costs did this couple have to pay at the birth of Jesus?
4. The Wise Men & the people of Bethlehem:
 - a. Read Matthew 2:1-12 – What price were the Wise men willing to pay at the birth of Jesus?
 - b. Read Matthew 2:16-18 – What price did the people of Bethlehem pay at the birth of Jesus?
5. The first Disciples:
 - a. Read Acts 4:1-4 – What price were Peter and John willing to pay to deliver Jesus?
 - b. Read Acts 6:8-15 & 7:54-60 – What price was Stephen willing to pay to deliver Jesus?
6. Every Disciple:
 - a. Read Acts 1:8 & Matthew 28:18-20 – Who is being asked to "deliver" Jesus? To whom are they being asked to deliver Him?
 - b. Read Luke 9:23-27 – What will it cost you to "deliver" Jesus?
 - c. What are some practical ways we can be more intentional about "delivering" Jesus this Advent Season?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

7. When was the last time you shared the gift of Jesus with someone? What did it cost you? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.