

## Luke 1:26-35 – The Gift – Part 1

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Most people like receiving gifts. There is joy in the knowledge that **others are thinking about you**. There is a certain joy in the gift itself – **thinking of how useful it can be**. And there is a joy when **thinking of how much the gift cost**. (A new MacBook is loved better than socks or an ugly sweater.)

But if the gift is from someone who doesn't know you well, or the gift is not useful, or the gift doesn't cost much, it greatly changes how you look at it. **When you consider God's gift to you, you will find that it meets all these conditions perfectly**. God loved and remembered you and gave you Jesus. God knew how much you needed this gift to survive. And God paid the great price for it, giving his Son's life.

Our headings are:

**The Parents of the Gift**

**The Plan of the Gift**

**The Power of The Gift**

Our goals are: **That you will see how God cared for you and carefully guided the gift you needed the most, and that you will treasure this gift for eternity**.

### **The Parents of the Gift**

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel **was sent by God** to a city of Galilee named **Nazareth**,

#### **1. The angel Gabriel came from the presence of God and appeared before Mary with a message.**

"Gabriel" means "man of God," so it was quite appropriate that God gave **him** this private message to give to Mary.

And it is most appropriate that **Mary and Joseph were citizens of Nazareth**. We often think more about Bethlehem when we think about Jesus' birth, but Nazareth was the focus of his life. Jesus grew up in Nazareth.

**Matthew 2:23** And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "**He shall be called a Nazarene**."

The "nun" or the "N" that some people use as their identification symbolize "Nazareth" the name given to Christians in Iraq. ISIS terrorists(恐怖主义者) required that Christians wear the "N" on their clothes and spray painted on their houses...so they could be taxed or killed. When they are killed the letter "N" is often carved into their bodies.

27 to **a virgin betrothed** (许配给) to a man whose name was **Joseph, of the house of David**. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, **highly favored one**, the **Lord is with you**; blessed are you among women!"

**2. Mary was an unmarried virgin.** She was also from the household of David, both by natural birth and by virtue of her marriage to Joseph. Some modern translations like to use the term “young woman” to refer to Mary, but this is wrong. “Young woman” is not the same as virgin, obviously.

**3. Joseph, Mary’s betrothed husband, was a poor carpenter,** showing that finances didn’t matter; faith mattered. To man, how much you have....even where you live...matters, but not to God.

John 7:52 They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

**3. Mary’s “betrothal” to Joseph was considered a legal marriage.** “Betrothal” simply meant that the married people were not yet living together as husband and wife.

**5. Mary was not perfect, but she was highly favored by God.** This meant that she also trusted in God through a deep faith.  
The fact that the Lord was “with her” was an incentive for her to be bold...brave...strong... So she was not chosen only because she was a virgin.

**6. So why talk about the parents of the gift? Jesus had to come from a human body to qualify to be a Mediator (中保) and make peace with God for man.**

1Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, **the Man Christ Jesus**, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.  
Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, **born of a woman**, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

29 But when she saw him, **she was troubled at his saying**, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

**7. Mary was shocked by what the appearance of the angel and how he addressed her.** Wouldn’t you be too, especially at a time when angels did not appear often...and if you become the center of the angel’s attention?

30 Then the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

**8. The angel then gave her consolation (安慰) .** And that was enough.

### **The Plan for the Gift**

31 "**And behold**, you will conceive in your womb and **bring forth a Son**, and shall call His name **JESUS**."

**1. Gabriel then described how the gift would come. He started with the word “behold.”** This meant that he was going to say something startling. In this case, it was a startling sign. And this is the same idiom paraphrased from Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive** and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

**2. Further, God's plan was that the baby, a Son, would be named Jesus. This is the same as the Hebrew word "Joshua," meaning "Jehovah saves," or "Jehovah is (the source of) salvation. Jesus' name contains the promise of salvation.**

**And 'save' is exactly what Jesus did. He saved his people from the coming wrath by his life and his death!**

1Thessalonians 1:10...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. (哪知他为我们的过犯受害, 为我们的罪孽压伤, 因他受的刑罚, 我们得平安; 因他受的鞭伤, 我们得医治。) 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 6: 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

You see, self-wisdom, self-effort, and self-righteousness are the enemies from which you must be delivered. These are all deceiving things.

### **The Power of the Gift**

32 "**He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest;** and the Lord God will give Him the **throne of His father David.**

**1. The baby Jesus was great in his heavenly origin (his position).** He is called the Son of the Highest. His body may have come from Mary's physical body, but it was without sin. Christ's very nature was that of the Son of God.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, **Mighty God,** Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Christ was not an angel like Gabriel; he was higher than all angels. He made the angels.

Psalm 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, `You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

What makes this more remarkable was that this "Highest One" descended to the lowest, making him great in your eyes.

**2. The baby Jesus – Son of the Highest - was great in his love** and he would teach and demonstrate that love.

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

You can't fully understand and appreciate this love in its fullness. Most people love and expect something back in return for loving. Some love those who love them first. Who would, ahead of time, know that the ones he loved did not love him, and yet he became "sin" for them? That is the greatest love.

**3. The baby Jesus was greatest in power.** He had a right to this power as his Father was the Highest Power. So his love had no limit. He had power to heal, power to forgive sins, and power to save. He did things only God could do, proving that indeed he was God. He was powerful in his words and in his actions. He was the greatest prophet, priest, and king to have ever graced the earth.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

**4. The Baby would be great in his earthly origins. In Verse 32, Jesus is called David. And indeed Joseph, his father was from David's family** (Luke 1:27) and his mother was from David's family (Luke 2:5).

Psalms 110:1 The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

**5. The Baby Will be great in that his reign will be eternal.** His throne will be in heaven with effective rule on earth.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever...

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Do you think Mary remembered this promise when Jesus was dying on the cross? Did she doubt it? Do you ever doubt that Christ is ruling over his people...especially when you see economic collapse, diseases, and terrorism? Jesus' kingdom is in you his children, and since you have eternal life, the kingdom is forever. And this kingdom is in place now...and it continues to expand. What a gift!

Revelation 11:15 - Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and **He shall reign forever and ever!**"

Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will **set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed**; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

You must work now for the expansion of the kingdom.

Psalm 132:15 I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread.  
16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

**6. Mary wondered about how God would work out the plan.** But don't think that she doubted. She believed. Luke 1:49. She simply wanted to know how this would happen. This shows her humility.

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will **overshadow you**; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

**7. Then the angel explained that God's Holy Spirit would supernaturally work in her, using her body, to create a body for the Savior.** ("Overshadow" was a marriage picture of a man spreading his skirt over his bride.) And **in order to remind Mary who the gift of her body would be**, the angel called Him the *Son of God*.

### **Conclusion:**

It is an amazing thing to see God Almighty, even though he was stripped of his glory, was most glorious when he came into the world. **He was born as a man** to live and die to save men from their sins, a job only he could do. And then he gloriously rose from the dead. **This was God's plan. He was great enough and good enough to die for the sins** of the whole world and great enough and good enough be raised from the dead. And he continues to rule forever to keep his children safe.

Brothers and Sisters, how do you respond, having received this most precious and exciting gift? 1. **Enjoy the gift.** 2. **Broadcast to the world that you have received this gift.** You see, these verses are not about feeling emotional and giving some money to the Salvation Army's tin at the mall so the hungry can have soup. This isn't about feeling excited about a "rags to riches story" (穷小子变富翁的故事). This isn't really a story about the benefits of a girl living a pure life! This is the story about how you are saved and how you must serve the one who saved you! **It is a story about a true gift.**

Finally, remember these words: Philippians 2:9-10 "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth..." Will you bow now to the King and let him adopt you as his child, or will he have to stomp you under his feet? Make the right choice.