

Christmas Day Message



Many of you know that at the beginning of this year, my elder son Kenyon got married to beautiful Claire.

We are loving getting to know Claire, and we quickly worked out that along with Claire's many endearing qualities, there was one skill Claire has that really stands out.

Claire is an excellent gift giver. She just seems to know exactly what each person needs.

After opening present after present and hearing ourselves exclaiming, "how on earth did you know that was exactly what I needed" my mother and I began to try to work out her strategy.'

Finally, we did. We noticed that all year long, Claire's ears were acutely listening to our conversations, all the while making a mental note of the very things we had revealed we needed or wanted.

I have a feeling, Claire puts so much thought into each gift, it would feel like a betrayal, having to resort to giving a generic gift card.

Believe me, it has inspired mum and I to put a lot more effort in choosing the right gift at birthdays and Christmas.

This whole dynamic reminds me how God the Father looks after his children.

Just like generous Claire is constantly listening to what we all need or desire, our loving heavenly Father is acutely aware of the cries of His people.

From the beginning of human history, when the first humans damaged God's perfectly designed home, God knew what we needed even before we were aware of our need.

As time drew on, and God's people wandered further away from how God planned them to live, God's prophets started to cry out to God for him to rescue us from the disastrous state we were in.

Yet, we didn't know what we needed.

We didn't know **how** our damaged relationship with our heavenly Father could be repaired.

Thankfully, we didn't need to know – for God knew exactly what we needed.

At just the right time, God gave us the gift of His Son Jesus.

That little Lord Jesus, who lay asleep in the hay ... was the very gift that we needed; a gift we literally could not live without.

For this little baby would grow up to be the Saviour of the world.

Jesus is your personal gift from your loving heavenly Father.

Jesus is your Saviour.

He is the only one who can bridge the cavern of sin and wrongdoing that separates you from God's holiness and perfection.

Is that not what Harold the Angel sung?

"Glory to the new-born King!

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Our loving heavenly Father, who sent His only human-born Son to earth, was acutely aware of what we needed.

He knew what every one of us needs - more than the new BBQs, new dolls, new phones, new golf clubs ...

What we really need is for the huge gulf that separates us from God to be bridged – and that is what Jesus did when he took our place and laid down a bridge for us to be forgiven.

So, on this Christmas Day, may we marvel at how awesome our loving Father is – the One who knows exactly what we need.

God doesn't need to resort to gift cards.

He gave us exactly the best personal gift we possibly could receive – the gift that's exactly what we need

He gave us a Saviour who forgives us from all our wrongdoings, and promises to come and dwell within us in our heart.

May we be people who open our hearts to Jesus and say, "Come Lord Jesus Come and dwell with me as my Emmanuel."