

Scott's Thoughts

December 22, 2024



“Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther’s feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity. (Esther 2:18, ESV)

My earliest memories of having gifts at Christmas centered around the tree and getting our first look at it before we were allowed to unwrap anything. The tree was always beautiful and not only was there a gift for everyone from Santa there were boxes of fruits, chocolates, and several different kinds of nuts for everyone to enjoy. Every other year there was a slight variation. One year we rose extra early to open gifts because Dad had to report to work at the fire station no later than seven a.m. The next year we were delayed opening our gifts until Dad got home from his shift, because Dad always told his relief to come in an hour late so that man could have a little more time with his family on that special day. I can remember the year mom, knowing I knew about Santa Clause, asked my older brother and me if we wanted a gift from Santa under the tree. Our answer was a resounding yes! Still to this day I enjoy a small gift from Santa not to mention what he puts in my stocking.

In all the hustle and bustles we can choose to forget or to embrace Christ for the holidays. No matter how many times I read the record of the birth of Jesus I find my mind going in many different directions. All my life the birth of Christ has been celebrated in many different ways. Mary and Joseph knew Jesus would be different from the rest of mankind because the angel

said the Baby was to be named Jesus. But did they really know how different?

Because of Jesus I find hope in the Scriptures and reflecting on them during quiet times allows me to look at the evidence about Jesus. If you will allow me, let’s reflect on what it means to be God in the flesh. The great gulf was crossed at that moment in time the eternal God broke into the temporal. Jesus, a man who only had a three-year ministry before He returned to his Heavenly realm. Jesus, a man who had His mind questioned and experienced both hate and love. He knew how God would handle all the evil that surrounded Him. Despite all this, He still loves every person, and He still advocates for us before God the father. What strength of character He shows by loving everyone (faithful and unfaithful) always ready to save both. It is because of Him that we can have the greatest hope of all time. The greatest gift, the gift of Himself. When we give according to our love the way Jesus gives without reservation, we are blessed beyond our ability to understand.

I wish I could be with each of you personally, to wish you the Happiest of Holidays. In all the hustle and bustles we can choose to forget or to embrace Christ for the holidays.

“May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!” (Psalm 72:11, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott