



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Isn't Santa Claus Series, Lesson 31

Lesson Title: Meet Jesus – He Makes Us
a Gift to Others

Take Home Point: Meet Jesus – he makes us a gift
to others.

Warm-Up:

The advertisement in the newspaper was unmistakably clear. "Wanted: people who will accept my money and give it away to others. Must be willing to serve without public recognition in all types of circumstances. No previous experience required. No minimum education requirements. All monetary gifts provided at no cost to the giver. For every dollar given away, the giver will receive ten dollars more. Apply at the following address..." What an offer! After overcoming the initial skepticism, who would turn down such generosity? Who wouldn't be willing to give away what was given to them in the first place in order to get much more? Who would hang on to the initial amount when so much more can be gained? Well, who turns down the grace of God because it's too hard to believe? Who turns away from the rescue Jesus offers because they want to help in the rescue?

Read: Matthew 20:25-28; Acts 20:25; and 1 Peter 4:10

Observation (What happened?):

What is every disciple of Jesus to do based upon his example?

According to Peter, what does every disciple of Christ have the privilege of administering?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you think Jesus meant when he said his disciples must be servants and slaves?

What exclusions does Peter use in defining who receives gifts for service?

Insight:

In 2 Kings 7, you can read a Bible event that is a wonderful example of how God wants us to view the gifts he gives. Near the end of the account, the men who discovered what was needed declared, "We're not doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this." (NIV) The same is true for us. We are not to keep what God gives us to ourselves; we are to give it away to those who need his grace as much as we do. Is there such a thing as grace that is not given? If it is not given, is it grace? No, what is given then is "ungrace." And ungrace is recognized and received just as surely as grace, with the sure effect of creating wounded and hard hearts. Just as the fictitious ad in today's Warm-Up, when we give away God's gift of grace in whatever way he leads, not only do others receive, we receive far more than we would have by attempting to hoard what is given to us.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Who are you serving today? What service are you providing?

What gifts has God given you as the means to administer his grace? How are you using them?