

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

The Best Gift of All – Jesus Series, Lesson 30

Lesson Title: Jesus is the Gift of Messiah

Take Home Point: The gift of Messiah has come.

Warm-Up:

Do you remember a time you eagerly anticipated the arrival of someone special – perhaps your grandparents for a special event, a spouse returning from military duty, or your child coming home from college for the summer - but it was a long time in coming? (Possibly, you are still waiting!) How did the long wait make you feel? As the time approached, did you race for the door every time the doorbell sounded? Did you hurry to the telephone when it rang, wondering if it would be the person for whom you were waiting? Did you try to make sure the house was in order and you were looking your best for them? The excitement would build as you thought about their arrival and the time you would get to spend with them. If you were a child, no doubt you also thought about what they might bring you as a gift!

Read: John 1:35-42

Observation (What happened?):

How did Jesus respond to the question of the two disciples?

What did Andrew tell his brother when he saw him?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you suppose the two men talked about with Jesus for the day?

What did Andrew mean when he told Simon he found “the Messiah”?

Insight:

The Jews 2000 years ago were very ready for Messiah to come. They read the prophecies of the Old Testament. Psalm 89 was written about 1000 years before Jesus was born, and Isaiah wrote his words about 700 years before Jesus' birth. It was even 400 years since the prophet Malachi spoke the last words in the Old Testament. It was a long time to wait! During that time, the nation of Israel was conquered and the people scattered throughout the known world, with only a remnant returning to the land God had given his people. Many Jews eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel as an unending earthly kingdom. But although they read the prophecies, they forgot God's spiritual focus and his timing. “Messiah” comes from the Hebrew “anoint,” so they believed Messiah would be “The Anointed One” who would rescue Israel from her oppressors. That was taken to mean a physical rescue, a re-establishment of David's kingdom. They misunderstood the coming of Jesus as the humble Messiah, the King who would die on the cross and rise again to establish an eternal spiritual kingdom. It's no wonder Andrew was excited that he found Messiah and ran to tell his brother.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

When was the last time you spent lengthy time with Jesus? What did you learn?

What and who is Jesus to you?

The Best Gift of All – Jesus - Lesson 30