

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions The Best Gift of All – Jesus Series, Lesson 28

Lesson Title: Jesus is the Gift of Life

Take Home Point: Jesus is the gift of life.

Warm-Up:

If you could choose to receive any gift you wanted, what would it be? Would it be a material item such as a house or money in the bank? Or would it be something less physical, like peace of mind, health, safety from harm, or family happiness? Now consider the reverse. If you had unlimited resources and could give any gift you wanted to someone you loved, what would it be? How would you approach the possibilities? How would you decide what would be the best gift – what they want or need? And when you gave it, what if they didn't even recognize it as a gift? What if they refused it, or decided they must earn it so they wouldn't have to recognize you as the giver? What if they just didn't understand the gift you offered? Think about these things in the context of the gift of life given through Jesus Christ.

Read: John 1:1-19 and 3:1-17

Observation (What happened?):

What came through Moses? What came through Jesus Christ?

List the different words John uses to describe Jesus.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did the world neither recognize nor receive him?

What was Nicodemus missing as revealed by his questions and responses to Jesus?

Insight:

Has anyone ever said to you, "I can't forgive you," or "I won't forgive you"? Perhaps the words are never spoken, but actions speak louder than words. If you have heard these words or known their effect, you know their tremendous weight as they press down on heart and soul. You feel like a permanent failure, and a relationship is broken because of unforgiveness with its accompanying resentment and bitterness. Satan loves to use the lack of forgiveness to further lie and accuse. "You are no good," he whispers, "and never will be. That person can't forgive you because you are so awful. You are so awful and unlovable that even God can't love you." Too many people believe that outrageous lie, and live with feelings of worthlessness and inner despair. It is exactly to destroy that lie that Jesus lived, died, and rose again. Why else would he do it if not out of love for us? A sense of duty? Hardly. God owes us nothing. Pity? Pity would more likely cause God to put us out of our misery rather than rescue us. It is God's unfailing love that frees us from the slavery of sin and gives us worth now and through all eternity. That is the gift of life and light Jesus gives.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How are you responding to the light and life offered by Jesus?

Take a few minutes to thank God that he sent Jesus into the world to rescue you.

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