

THE ONLY GIFT THAT MATTERS

Matthew 1:18-25

"Sanctify them
by the Truth.
Your Word is Truth"

- I. The tradition of gift giving.
 - A. We've gone way overboard with gift giving.

 - B. God has given us a gift that is priceless.

 - C. What is this gift God has given us?

 - D. While an obscure carpenter was sleeping, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream with the gift in hand.

- II. Even today, the naming of a child is a pretty important event, isn't it?
 - A. As you consider what a child should be named a number of factors are looked at.

 - B. Sometimes names are given that express a hope that the parent has for the child like Faith or Hope or Charity or Grace.

- III. With the ancient Hebrews, it was different.
 - A. They meant far more by their names than we do.

 - B. Eve called her first son, Cain, which means, "acquired".

C. Some think her second son Abel's name was also a mistake.

D. Esau and Jacob's names were pretty accurate.

IV. When Jesus was named, the same tradition was followed.

A. The name wasn't a hope for what would come; it was a prophecy; it was a fact of the future.

B. Jesus wasn't an unusual name at all.

C. Jesus is the Greek form of a pretty familiar Hebrew name – Joshua.

V. One day in Bethlehem, in a stable at an inn, a little baby boy was born and laid in a manger because there was no room for them inside the inn.

A. It didn't matter anymore what they thought or what they did.

B. Notice who would be saved.

C. Here's the promise: If you are one of His people, He will save you from your sins.