

**“He Gave Gifts to Man”**  
**By Brother Parrish Lee**  
**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

What a wonderful opportunity to come and worship. A couple of times, I was just like, “Hey, Andy, just go ahead, you guys take it!” You know, when you start feeling and adjusting... Anybody here in love this morning? Ain’t it a great feeling to be in love? Anybody here in love with the Lord? I love the Lord; I love the Lord! It’s kind of hard not to love, after talking about the blood that will never lose its power, and then Jesus, You are the lover of my soul, and You are my King. Kind of hard not to. Talking about how great is our God. Kind of hard not to. But, just to say, and this ain’t the message, but, just to say, if you find yourself and you haven’t encountered that, you haven’t been lost in that feeling, you find yourself that you can’t really say that you’re in love with the Lord, not to worry, not to worry, because, the truth of the matter is, He is in love with you. He loves you so much that He came and gave His life for you, by name. He loves you so much that He moved everything else to make sure that you and He would have the opportunity to have a relationship. That is the longing on our souls. What a God, what a God, what a God, what a God.

Well, my name is Parrish Lee, I am one of the fellowship leaders, along with Andy Giebler, and, myself, if you don’t know me, and, you know it has been such an honor and a privilege and so humbling to be in this calling, this position, this office, you could say. But, I’d say it has been so much more, just encountering what God has for us. We had a wonderful month, last month, and this month, we’re actually looking forward to greater, because there’s no hindrance, no restriction in God. And we do, we want to set our sights high. We don’t want just a little bit from God. You know, when you make a withdrawal at the bank, the only limit you’ve got is what you have, but wouldn’t it be nice to have your own ATM in your house, to have no limit, and all you had to do was push a button, and it dispenses out according to what you want, and not what you have. That would be nice. Well, God is the One who gives what He has, not what we want.

Our Scripture theme for the month:

***Ephesians 4:7-8*** *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, When he ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

I’m sorry, I neglected to do something. When Pastor Ulysse was here, he taught us something. He taught us, he said, at the beginning of the reading of the Word, we need to stand and give homage to the reading of the Word. I thought that was really great. I had it written down, and I forgot to do it. So, we’d like to do that. We’d like to have that as a practice. When it comes to the reading of the Word for that message, we’d like to stand when it comes to that.

Our Scripture theme for today:

***Ephesians 4:4-12*** *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave some,*

*apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

If we could remain standing just for a word of prayer. Lord, we continue being amazed. We come to worship You, but You pour out so much more of a blessing than we ever give to You. Thank You, Almighty God. We thank you for the reading of Your Word; we thank You for this time of Your presence. And we ask, God, we ask that, according to Your Word, that it would not return unto You void, but You have a purpose for it in each one of our lies, and we ask, God, that it would do according to Your will. So, we present ourselves to You, Lord, and we thank You for all Your good and perfect gifts. And this we do pray and claim, in Jesus' name. And everyone said amen. Amen.

You may be seated.

Giving honor to the Lord who is the head of my life. Giving honor to all those who have come and stood in the gap, from our founding pastor, he and his family, from our pastor, he and his family, and all those who have come and stood in the gap to make up the hedge in furthering forth of the Gospel. And giving honor to all of you, who present yourselves to that same God, that He might nurture and minister and administer into your lives, that you might be enriched thereby to go forth to do more of His art, and have your relationship with Him evermore enriched.

Very thankful today, very thankful today to be able to come into the presence of so many saints, and so many people who love the Lord. Truly there is no other place like it. There are many places around, but when you come into a place in the company of people who love God, it is always different, it is always different.

## **Part 1: He Led Captivity Captive**

As we read, and I want to reiterate one more time:

***Ephesians 4:7-8*** *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

And I know what you're thinking. I know what you're thinking; you're thinking, "Hey, it's December! Hey, where's the star in the sky? Where are the three wise men? Where are the shepherds? Where is the babe in the manger?" And, at this time, all over the world, they put Christmas up there, and Christmas immediately takes you to a place—and it should. It should. But it immediately takes you to a place where the quick assumption is, "Well, if I have my Christmas, if I put up my decorations, and I cook a really great meal, and I have some presents to give to other people, that will be Christmas. And I'll have Christmas then; I can say I had Christmas." And people come along and say, "How was your Christmas?" Oh, and there's one other thing: "I have to have the Christmas Spirit. I have to be nice to people." Whether I'm nice or not normally, and we're going to leave that alone, but this time of year, I have to be nice to people. I've got to have the Christmas spirit. All over the world, all over the world, that is the Christmas phenomena, by the world's standards.

But, the truth is, the first Christmas did not start two thousand years ago, as we would be led to believe. The very first Christmas started in the garden. The very first Christmas started at the fall of man. It started when God turned to the serpent and told him, "It shall bruise thy head." (Genesis 3:15) This child, this child from the woman that comes will bruise your head. That began the first Christmas. The first meaning of a Savior, and the first gift of a promise. And, again, "...Unto every one of us is given..." And we want to stress the "give" part. The title of the message today is, "He Gave Gifts Unto Men." "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith,

When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.” So, unto every one of us is given grace. Unto every one of us is given grace, or this gift of joy of liberality. This thanksgiving-worthiness. Grace is such an immense word, immense subject, immense gift, it’s hard to boil it down to just a few quick words, and sum it up. It’s much bigger than that. As our pastor had said to us, Andy, he said, “Grace is the gift that was given that you don’t deserve.” And he went on to say, “But mercy is when you are spared from a punishment that you do deserve.”

Let’s talk about that gift that we’re given that we don’t deserve. When he said, “When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive...” he actually was referring to a Scripture in the Book of Psalms:

***Psalms 68:18*** *Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.*

David said this, and he was referring to a time when the Ark of the Covenant was coming back into the camp of Israel, and this was for a very specific point. The Ark of the Covenant was being released by the enemies; it was coming back into the camp of Israel, and they honored it where, they respected it where, this Ark of the Covenant had the cherubims on top. And, between those two cherubims was where the Spirit of the Lord would dwell. So, for that to be coming back into Israel was a great time of celebration because it was God coming back into the camp. And, this God that was coming back to the camp, they knew that He dwells on high. So, He led captivity captive. And, as it says, that, if He dwelt between the cherubims, the enemies of Israel, the things that held them captive, the things that bound Israel would themselves be bound by this God that was coming back into the camp. So this captivity that they were going to be subject to, was going to be held captive by their God. This was a great time. This was a great time. So, even though David was speaking, as it was, in front of them, physically, he was also speaking prophetically. He was covering this long before the babe in the manger and the three king and the frankincense and myrrh; before all that, he was talking about this. He was speaking of that wonderful God who would be where His people are. Not afar off, but where His people actually are. He was speaking of that same God, having that relationship, and showing His God-ness by, even in the midst of His people, exalting Himself, and showing Himself on high. Now, that’s some kind of God, who can be with and show you that He is *that* great to be on high and with you all at the same time! And, this same God, who would show His God-ness, would also show what God does by delivering from captivity. Taking whatever captivity it was, in the time of David, and holding those things captives! He Philistines, for example, the Moabites, the Ammonites; but not just those enemies, He was also talking about sickness, and insecurity. He was also talking about depression, and lack of hope. This God, the things that hold His people captive, was going to take those captivities away. He was also talking about poverty. He was also talking about taking away the power the devil would have over His people. He was talking about taking away the power of sin to rule over His people. God would hold that and take it captive, and give gifts to men. He was also going to take away death, and the curse of the Law. What a God! What a Savior, to take away the things that would hold any of His people captive, and those things that are over His people in captivity themselves. Only God could do that.

And it goes on to say, “...and He received gifts for men.” In David’s time, it says He received gifts for men. This is in the aspect of a conqueror. A conqueror who would conquer whoever the ‘they’ was, and, after the conquest, He would give, from that conquering, gifts to those who followed Him. This conqueror would conquer the land, and then give gifts of the spoil to those who followed Him. We want to visit that a little bit more, a little later on in the message.

But the scripture goes on to say that He received gifts for the rebellious, also. Psalms 8:18 “Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.” So, even for the rebellious, God wanted to

show Himself God. Because, that great God, that awesome God, that wonderful God wants to have a relationship with the rebellious also. He wants to dwell among them and what's more, He could run off, and, you know, it's one thing, church people, if they're not careful, they could fall into a little trap. You know, there's a lot of rebellious people in the world, but it wasn't too long ago that we were in that moment. And, so, it could happen where, "Oh, well, you know, they need to get it right," and the putting forth of the pointing of the finger when we have to realize that, you know what? "A couple of days ago, that was *me*." And, God—I can remember when I was rebellious; sometimes I can remember when I was rebellious by looking at my clock, or the watch on my hand. But, I remember when I am—I'm not going to say, "I was,"—I am rebellious, God still wants to have a relationship with me. That is the kind of a God that He is. "...For the rebellious also, that He might dwell among them."

***Psalms 68:19-20***      *Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits [long before the babe in the manger], even the God of our salvation. Selah. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.*

Daily loadeth us with benefits, and to Him belong the issues of death. What kills you, what drives you there, what makes you look at death; those issues belong to Him. "I need some sustenance for this day," well, He daily loadeth us with benefits. You know, it's amazing, it's amazing the things that God does for us, and we could fall into the trap of not bringing them into—and I had to repent, I had to repent recently. I was talking to God and he was reminding me what He's doing for me, and He makes it seem—God is so amazing—and He makes it seem like it was nothing. He did it, and he made it seem like it was so easy to do. He did it, and it made me wonder, "Why was I stressing out about it?" You know? When the fact is, before He did it, you knew we had a problem, and it's God-sized. And, after God came in, it was nothing. And God had to remind me that He is continually doing that for my life. I know for a fact, on the road, I am a few feet away from an accident. I know for a fact that, on my job, I am a couple of bad decisions away from getting fired. I know, for me, there's so many things that God daily delivers us from, I have to turn to Him and thank Him because He does it so easily and so smoothly that I begin to think it's me. Thank You, God, for your deliverance.

But, last Friday, I had the opportunity, I was at work, and I want to just say this: I was at work, and they were having a blood drive, and I was giving blood; it's just something that I like to do. As I was giving blood, you know, you go over, and you step up, everybody does it, and, if you do it regularly, they give you a donor card, and they want to see your donor card and, as soon as I showed my card, the lady got all excited, "Ooooh!" And she said, "You're O Neg!" I said, "Yes, I know." And she said, "Would you like to give red blood cells, and platelets, a double issue?" I said, "Sure, why not." And she went on to talk about how special my blood is. "You're the universal donor!" "Yes, I got the card." We were talking about this, and it's been ever since high school. Ever since high school, when I first gave blood, and they saw that my blood was O Negative, they said, "You're the universal donor," and they used the example, and say, "Oh! Wow, you're special!" And I would get calls, actually calls from the Red Cross, because they want that blood, that special blood. And, sometimes we're where you don't mind helping out people, and it kind of makes you feel good to help people, but, sometimes, you know, you feel like you've got a little bit of power over them. And they tell you, you know, if somebody's in an accident and the need blood, or sometimes somebody's on the operating table being operated on, and you need blood, they don't need to run around and do a lot of testing for my blood; they know my blood will work. That O Negative, they know that's going to work. And, if anybody in here is O negative, and you give blood, you are going to get those calls, too. But, they would tell you, "Hey, look, we don't have to do a whole lot of testing; your blood is special. Just come on down." God, it makes you feel a little...something. I wanted to give them a little bit of warning, "You know if you take my blood, whoever gets it is going to have some severe sugar cravings. I'm just saying. Every cookie is going to be a delight for them, every piece of cake, sweet

potatoes, you name it. It's going to send them to a place of euphoria, but, having that blood is worth it." So, okay, yeah, I'll give it. And, it kind of takes you back a little bit; it kind of takes you back to *the* universal donor. It kind of takes you back to the One whose blood *everybody* wants. My blood can just help save you if you need a pint. I'm not giving much more than that at a time, you know? And it might help your heart beat a little bit more; might help you and your lungs or whatever, as they give you the other medicines, but *His* blood can deliver you from sin. His blood takes away depression! His blood can cover anger and malice! His blood can change your direction! His blood, as they sang this morning, reaches to the highest mountain, no matter where you are, and it flows to the lowest valley. It gives us strength from day to day. His blood had never lost its power. The universal donor. Yes, He gave gifts unto men.

So, let's talk a little bit more about these gifts unto men.

## Part 2: He Gave Gifts to Men

What gifts did He give? We're going to do a little Scripture reading. And, let's see:

**Ecclesiastes 3:13** *And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.*

So, if you eat, and you drink, and you work, and get that good feeling of accomplishment, that is the gift of God, according to the Scripture.

**Ecclesiastes 5:19** *Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.*

So, here, if you get a paycheck on a Friday, that is the gift of God. If you're able to put gas in your car, that is a gift from God. If you have food on your table, that is a gift from God. If you wake up in the morning, and your nose will be so clean, your eyes will be awake, and your mind goes to being able to converse for that day, it is the gift of God. He loadeth us with benefits.

**John 4:10** *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

The gift of God was sometimes right in front of us. Right in front of the woman at the well, right here, readily apparent, right here in our midst. The gift of God is the Lord, Jesus Himself.

**Acts 2:38** *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

If you have the Holy Ghost in your life, it is the gift of God. Nobody else! It is God's gift in your life! And I want to say a little something about this Holy Ghost. That Holy Ghost being in your life, ain't going to put up with a lot of nonsense. The Holy Ghost will bring Scriptures to your remembrance, and it will also reprove you; it will correct you. But, it will also bless you. It will give you that, "Oh, I can do this in God." That Holy Ghost. And, as far as that correction, as far as that reproof, if you have the Holy Ghost speaking to you, you know for a fact, there's nothing sweeter. In fact, "God don't ever stop talking to me," is what the Christian says. "I don't care if You reprove me. I don't care if You correct me. Whatever You do, don't take Your Spirit away. Speak to me, Lord, because Your voice would make the birds shut their mouths. Your voice is sweeter than honey, and Your voice guides me and directs me." I love for God

to correct me. I don't love the correction at the time, but I love the fact that the correction shows me where I have to change. I don't have to worry about it; I might not like it, but I know it's God's way, and it's better than the way I had in my mind. Thank You, oh Lord, for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

It is the gift of God: Eternal life!

**1 Corinthians 7:7** *For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.*

Apostle Paul was speaking specifically about people who are married, and people who are single. People who are married trying to get out of their relationships, and he said, "Don't you know, everybody has a good and proper gift." If you're married, it's a gift of God! Ask God to bless your gift! Ask Him to bless; tell Him, "God, I need more of a blessing in my gift of marriage. Please, bless my wife." "Bless my husband." "Bless my family, bless my children, because, God, You gave it. The Bible says what You put together, let no man put asunder. You gave it, God, You bless it." And, unfortunately, unfortunately, sometimes there is not so much you can do. Sometimes—and that's the world we live in. So, whatever state you are in, God will bless you there. If you're single, it's a gift of God! It might change in the future, but, right now, it's a gift of God! "God, bless me and my gift! Show me! Enrichen me! Give me more! God, I don't want to say, is he the one?" "Is she the one?" "I'm looking, I'm looking, I'm looking, I'm looking..." And, yes, God, if you're looking to be married, and it's a wonderful thing, it's a laudable thing, look for the—thank you, Abby, for the instruction yesterday. She did a marvelous job. Somebody recorded it, it was off the chain. But, she said, "If you're going to look for a mate, a help-mate, look for them in God! Don't look for them in the world! If you look for them in the world, that's where you're going to be; you know you're going to be lost! Look for them in God!" So, every man has his good and proper gift. Every man! Don't be thinking in the mulligrumps; don't be complaining about it. Bless God, and, if you want more, tell God, "I want more!" Hallelujah!

**Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

Hallelujah! Even your faith is a gift from God. Oh, thank You, Lord. I didn't think it up or do it myself. God gave it to me. Ah, what a gift!

**Ephesians 3:7** *Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

If I minister, if I say something and there's a blessing in it, it is the gift of God! Not me, I didn't do it myself; God blessed it! You ever see somebody do something, and somebody come right behind them and do something, and just make it all—Wooh! One had the gift, one did not. It is the gift of God.

**2 Timothy 1:6** *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*

Saying that some of us have gifts of God we haven't even tapped into yet! Stir it up! Stir it up! Just say, "God, I'm coming to You! I know I've got things in my life; I don't know how to express them, I

don't know how to get them across! Stir them up, God; stir them up in me! Send me to pray right! Send me to fellowship right! Send me to pray right! Send me to read right! Stir up the gifts in my life!" Amen.

**1 Peter 4:10** *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

Being a steward is a gift from God! Being a steward is a gift from God!

### **Part 3: We Also Know That Gifts Are Things That Are Given**

**Matthew 9:8** *But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.*

The power that God gives us is a gift of God. Being able to pray, and see somebody recover, being able to minister, and have somebody be encouraged; having somebody minister to you, and you leave there encouraged is a gift of God.

**Matthew 13:11** *He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you [given unto you] to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

Being able to understand His Word is a gift from God. Being able to look at it, and read it and when it is revealed, and revealed, the revelation comes to you, that is a gift from God. You know, it really should rub your craw when somebody starts boasting about how much they know. It really should go right up your spine, and say, "That's not right," because that's *not* right. The Lord can give, and He can take it away. I know nobody that God has given to wants it to be taken away, but God will to prove His point.

**Matthew 20:23** *And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.*

Being able to drink of His cup is a gift from God. And, being able to be baptized with His baptism, is a gift from God.

**Mark 12:25** *For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.*

And the Lord Jesus was talking about something that hasn't even come to pass yet. But He's talking about something that's going to be given to us in the new life, in the next life, in the resurrection, and that is, being as the angels which are in Heaven; given to us.

**Luke 22:19** *And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*

His body was a gift of God.

**John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

The love of God is a gift of God. His Son, which was given, is a gift of God.

**John 3:27** *John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*

**John 13:15** *For I have given you an example...*

I love that! You got to love that! Not somebody sitting around, telling them, “Go, and do this, go,” pointing ways. But He says:

**John 13:15** *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

The Lord gave His life as an example; it is the gift of God. Thank You, Lord.

**John 17:8** *For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.*

His very words were given to us; they are the gift of God.

**John 17:22** *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

A gift of God. God gave of His glory to us, and he said, “My glory will I not give to another,” in the Book of Isaiah (Isaiah 42:8), but it says here that He has given of that to us to shine, in situations, as Christians. You are the light of the world, to bring compassion and understanding, and a love that isn't there without God. The gift of God.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11** *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

God has poured out His gifts, all through His people. Poured them out! In verse eleven, it talks about, “...all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit...” If somebody has the gift of prophecy, and another has the gift of knowledge, they don't have to compare their gifts with each other. If one person has the gift of encouragement, and another has the gift of compassion, it isn't a competition. These things are to work God's ministry together, that God gets the glory. It's not to be desiring of somebody else's gift, but, rather, encourage them in their gift, that God might give you more, when you have respect to the gift that God gives.

**2 Corinthians 12:7** *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

So, even our thorns are a gift from God. When you have to struggle sometimes, it is a gift from God. When you go through something hard, it is a gift from God. Why? Because all things are working together for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). “Well, you don’t know, Brother Parrish. I’ve been sick; I’ve got bills; you don’t know I lost my job...” Yeah, you could go through something, but it’s supposed to work for the greatness of God; He hasn’t finished with His blessing of you yet. It is a gift—it might not look like it, it might not be in our great expectation of a gift, might not be the gift that we want—but He gave it to us that it could work His pleasure in our lives.

A thorn in the flesh, lest I should be exalted—lest I get the big head, you know? I don’t know if anybody here has ever gotten the big head, but, I tell you what, every now and then, if God blesses and blesses and blesses, I need a pin. Somebody needs to bring a pin to pop that bubble, to make sure I’m even keeled with that Spirit that I’m supposed to be following, let I say, “You know, God, You’ve been doing a fine job; I can take it from here.” A thorn in the flesh.

**James 1:5** *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

Wisdom is a gift from God.

**2 Peter 1:4** *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

So, exceeding great and precious promises are gifts from God that we might be made a partaker in the divine nature, the divine nature of the Lord. Hallelujah.

**1 John 5:11** *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

This is the record. This is it: Eternal life, a gift from God. Which brings us all the way back to our last Scripture. The Christmas story; the real Christmas story from He who gave. So, it wasn’t just simply about that babe in the manger. It wasn’t simply about that star in the sky, but the Bible says He came to give gifts unto men, and we have been waiting for these gifts. We have been waiting to be set apart, and connected, and refreshed, and reconnected, and refined in the Lord.

**Luke 2:8-11** *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

Amen. Can we give the Lord a praise?