

Teaching Outline

Series: Advent 2018

A Father's Gift

Jesus is:

- Our _____ from the penalty of sin.
- Our _____ over the power of sin-habits.
- An _____ with the Heavenly Father and other believers.

Matt 7:7-11 (NLT) ⁷ “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Ask, Seek, Knock all imply:

- *risk-taking*
- *vulnerability*
- *persistence*

Submission symbolizes an end to *pride*, to *self-sufficiency*, and to *self-directed living*.

Matthew 10:39 If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it.”

Human _____ is easily the single largest obstacle to accepting the gifts which the Heavenly Father desires to give us.

⁹ “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰ Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

“sinful” = someone that is not living a God-centered life; simply a secular life.

“And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, his fiancé, who was obviously pregnant by this time. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.”

Do you look at this baby in a manger and see just a _____ or do you see the _____?

For reflection this week: Are there gifts the Heavenly Father wants to give me this season that I want to consider receiving?

Closing Song: Give Thanks, by Janella Salvador