

“SEE THE SIGN, FIND THE GIFT!”

Luke 2:12 – “And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”



This is the time of year that we are constantly bombarded with appealing ads and jolly jingles for Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and any other sale going on via the television, radio or internet as the world scurries through the Thanksgiving Season trying to rush to Christmas Day! Christmas used to be my favorite Holiday as a child because I was on the receiving in. But when you become a parent, your focus quickly moves from “me” to “them”. The holidays can be quite stressful, draining, and even depressing especially with our present economy plummeting at an all time high. The pressure is so great to spend money that you simply don’t have in order to make another person happy for one day. Something is truly wrong with that picture. Don’t you think? I mean really! As a Disciple of Christ, our daily goal ought to be “I am blessed to be a blessing to someone other than myself.” But somewhere along the way, we’ve fallen a little short of the mark and have forgotten who we are and whose we are, and more importantly we’ve forgotten what we have been assigned to do in the world!

All through bible times, God has always given a sign. Holman Bible Dictionary states that “in the Old Testament, the two Hebrew words most frequently used for “miracle” are translated “sign” (‘oth) and “wonder” (mopheth). The basic nature of a sign is that it points people to God. “Sign” (semeion) in the New Testament is used of miracles taken as evidence of divine authority.” You don’t believe me? In Exodus 12:13 it reads, “The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” And how about in Joshua 4:6, “Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, `What do these stones mean to you?`. Still not convinced? Look at Exodus 13:21, “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:” These are just a few of the signs mentioned in the Old Testament. Notice if you will, where ever there was a sign, God was not far behind.

*So, let me ask you today, “Do you see the sign? Do you know what is to follow? Well here are six signs given by Jesus to indicate His coming and the end of the age: **False Prophets and Christs** - Matthew 24:5 & 11; **Wars** - Matthew 24:6 & 7; **Famines** - Matthew 24:7; **Earthquakes** - Matthew 24:7; **Tribulations** - Matthew 24:8-9; **The Gospel** will be preached throughout the world - Matthew 24:14. So when you see the signs, you ought to be looking for the gift! No need to worry. No need to fret. All that means is that while you live, breathe and move you still have time to receive the precious gift. What is the gift? Who is the gift? The gift is eternal life through Christ Jesus. How do you receive the gift? Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead and you shall be saved. He that believes shall have everlasting life. And once you receive the precious gift, be a witness on this earth before He returns.*

During this Christmas Season, I implore you to look for the sign and find the gift. When you hear of a family in need and you have plenty to spare, look for the sign and find the gift! When you see the homeless sleeping in doorways, don’t look down on them, but instead look for the sign and find the gift! When you see society taking Christ out of Christmas, look for the sign and find the gift! When you are more concerned about what you will receive rather than what you will give, look for the sign and find the gift! It is up to the body of Christ to keep Christ ever present in the world. Understand that in each of these signs there is a great opportunity for you to show up and be the gift that is most needed in this lost world. You have been empowered by the Holy Ghost to do greater works. So when you see the sign, look for the gift inside of your heart. Share the gift of Jesus Christ and remember that you can also be the gift! Matthew 5:16 reminds us to “Let your light so shine among men, that they may see your good works, and glorify the Father which is in Heaven.” Look for the sign and find the gift!

Merry Christmas!

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