

# The True Meaning of Christmas

## WHAT KIND OF CHRISTMAS DOES GOD WANT?

Part 1; November 29, 2009

"This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is: **sharing your food** with the hungry, **inviting the homeless poor into your homes**, **putting clothes** on the shivering ill-clad, **being available to your own families**. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The God of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, God will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am...' *Isaiah 58:6-9 MSG*

### **25 Days of Christmas:**

Learning the true meaning of Christmas by giving \_\_\_\_\_, **graciously**, and \_\_\_\_\_, in such a way that I meet a need or offer a caring touch to someone else's life in the name of Jesus Christ

I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and **make up your own mind what you will give**. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. *2 Cor. 9:7 MSG*

"**Generous people will be blessed**, because they share their food with the poor." *Proverbs 22:9 NCV*

#### **1. Choose to Put The Needs Of Others Above My Wants and Desires:** \_\_\_\_\_

"And again they cried together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, and returned to her childhood home; but **Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi.**" *Ruth 1:14 TLB*

"Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. **Where you go, I go**; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me GOD-not even death itself is going to come between us!" *Ruth 1:16-17 MSG*

- It's all about putting someone else's needs above \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **2. Graciously Accept the Consequences of my Sacrifice:** \_\_\_\_\_

"So Ruth went out to the fields and **walked behind** the workers, picking up the corn which they left." *Ruth 2:3 GNB*

"Once the **commitment** is clear, you do what you can, not what you can't. The heart regulates the hands." *2 Corinthians 8:12-13 MSG*

"The poor are always ruled over by the rich, so **don't borrow** and put yourself under their power." *Proverbs 22:7 MSG*

#### **3. Ask God To Help Me Be Different Today:** \_\_\_\_\_

"How can you be so kind to me?" she asked. "You must **know I am only a foreigner.**" *Ruth 2:10 TLB*

- When I allow Jesus to Change Me: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4. Expect the Totally Unexpected:** \_\_\_\_\_

"One day her mother-in-law Naomi said to Ruth, "My dear daughter, isn't it about time I arranged a good home for you so you can have a happy life?" *Ruth 3:1 MSG*

"The one who blesses others **is abundantly blessed**; those who help others are helped." *Proverbs 11:25 MSG*

- **The principle of Reciprocal Relationships**
  - (1) it is never give to get: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ through others arms
  - (3) Count on God wanting to do something \_\_\_\_\_