

Solemnity of The Nativity of The Lord
December 25, 2022
Christmas

In recent days, I had the great pleasure of viewing a Christian video presentation written by Tyler Thompson and Dallas Jenkins who also directed. It was a story of the first Christmas, part of a series known as The Chosen. I must say it was so masterfully presented; so powerful and eloquent, and so filled with the emotions of humanity and how the most perfect gift bestowed to mankind came to be. Well, I confess it brought me to tears. I only wish I could convey the events of that first Christmas to all of you in such a powerful fashion. If only I could share the beauty and love from those scenes.

But, in retrospect, truth be told, words from scripture tell the Christmas story in a most powerful manner, if you immerse yourself into the depth and meaning of the first Christmas. God's love and grace for us becomes so clear that *our gratefulness* cannot be adequately expressed. Therein comes reasons for tears of gratitude from us; for this is truly a totally unearned gift. Coming to the realization of God's gift being the sacrifice of His own Son is almost inconceivable. Could you give up your child, sacrifice your own blood to extended torture, humiliation and death to save others? Yet, God, in his infinite wisdom chose to provide all of His children a path to salvation. All of us, who faced eternal death and torture due to original sin and our own personal sins, would have a way to eternal life if we simply choose to take that path.

I read a little prayer by Pope St. John XXIII, from his Journal of a Soul, that says so much of the message I would like to share. It says,

“O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men this peace for which they sometime seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers, children of the same Father. Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.”

Isn't it amazing how love works? We can learn from our God's actions of sacrifice, to love and even sacrifice for others. We can learn from His love to love others and ourselves. We can learn that He has provided us all we could possibly need to be happy. Loving and obeying Him is the first step down that path to a very Merry Christmas.

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta said it another way of course: “Let nothing come between you and Jesus.” In other words, let nothing come between you and God's love. Brothers and sisters, peace be with you this blessed season and throughout the new year.