

"Gift ideas for Jesus ~ To be Worshipful" 12.20.09

Recently I found this letter from a young co-ed to her parents that puts today's msg into a healthy perspective ☺

Dear Mom & Dad,

I have so much to tell you. Because of the fire in my dormitory, set off by student riots; I experienced temporary lung damage & had to go to the hospital. While I was there, I fell in love with an orderly and we decided to move in together. He's a wonderful boy with only minor quirks - - after getting fired because of his drinking; I decided to drop out of school and get a job, to support both of us.

Don't worry - - we have a plan. We are moving to Alaska to become 'king crab' fisherman, Hank thinks we can be on the Discovery Channel. Thanks for yours and dad's great examples of an adoring couple. Your loving daughter,

PS: None of this really happened, but I did flunk my chemistry class, & I wanted to keep it in perspective ☺

Sometimes you just need to ZOOM OUT and look @ the big picture. You fail chemistry and it feels like the end of the world; but it's not!

Sometimes all you need is a FRESH PERSPECTIVE: Personal experience has taught me that when I get into a spiritual or emotional slump, it's generally because I've ZOOMED IN on a problem, my focus is off!

9 times out of 10 the solution is = ZOOMING OUT & redirecting my focus & the key to this is, a 1 word answer: WORSHIP!

Worship is taking our eyes off of our external circumstances & focusing on God. We stop focusing on what's wrong w/ us, or w/ our circumstances & we start to focus on what's right with God = its' what they did @ the 1st Christmas:

I. The 1st Christmas

A. Luke 2: 8 – 9 or p. 781 in pew Bible

- There was all kinds of problems to ZOOM IN on that 1st Christmas:
 - There was an unusual pregnancy that caused undo stress.
 - i. This was a joyful time, but also stressful. Luke 1:29 reminds us that Mary was greatly troubled over the angel's announcement.
 - ii. On top of this unusual pregnancy came this unpleasant trip. Luke records Mary and Joseph going from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Folks, this was no sightseeing trip. It was a rugged journey of over 80 miles; it had to take almost a week.
 - iii. Mary and Joseph were taking this trip at an awkward time when it was difficult to travel in her condition. Artists often portray Mary riding on a donkey; I believe this is accurate. I find it hard to imagine Mary having to

walk over 80 miles in her condition.

- o Luke 2: 7 tells us that the situation in Nazareth worsened, undesirable lodging; there was no room in the inn.
 - iv. Mary was undoubtedly uncomfortable, anticipating birth was near; tensions were mounting as they realized there was no hotel available. In Luke 2:6 tells us it was time for the baby to be born.
 - v. Many mothers will tell you it is not pleasant to go through the pangs of labor. I don't think any woman present would exchange places with Mary and give birth in a barn, in an unfamiliar city, with no doctor or mother.

Yet the Bible explains that this birth will be "...good news that will bring great joy to all people"

- B. Luke 2: 10 – 11= Savior = Matt 1: 21 + Messiah = Gen 3: 15
So how did they respond to all this tension & pressure? The Bible says they **ZOOMED OUT & WORSHIPED GOD!**

- Luke 2: 13 – 14 + v. 20

This is the purpose of worship - - re directing focus on God!

King David wrote in Psalms 34: 3; "Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."

Worship is the act of magnifying God ~ enlarging our vision of Him!
Isn't that what we need - - a **BIG VIEW** of God?

- Don't we have big problems; big heartaches; big questions? Of course we do. That's why we need a big view of God!

It's easy to become distracted with our own personal problems & circumstances & neglect how magnificent & awesome our God is! Have you ever stopped to consider how vast & immeasurable God's world is?

II. Re-capturing the 'Wow-factor'

A. Consider His expansive universe

1. A car traveling 100 mph would take more than 29 million years to reach the nearest star in our solar system!
2. Our Earth feels like all there is, but we know that it's just a tiny planet in a vast Solar system. And our Solar System is just one member of a vast Milky Way galaxy with 200 to 400 billion stars. If you could travel @ the speed of light 186,000 per second it would still take 100,000 years to cross our galaxy.
3. So how many galaxies are there in the entire Universe?
Difficult number to know for certain; the most current estimates guess that there are 100 to 200 billion galaxies in the Universe, each of which has 100s of billions of stars Most of these galaxies have just been discovered only in the past few years, thanks to the Hubble telescope.

SO WHY, would God create 100 – 200 billion galaxies (conservative estimate) that generations of people never saw or even knew existed?

Do you think maybe it was to wake us up to realize how unfathomably BIG HE is or maybe He allowed to see these 1st pictures just to say, 'I had no idea'!

Psalm 19: 1- 4a or p. 421 in pew Bible

B. That's the universe now consider the human body for a moment;

How many miles of blood vessels are contained in the body?
If they could be laid end to end, the blood vessels would cover a distance of about 60,000 miles!

The human heart squeezes out about 2 oz of blood with every heart beat & it pumps @ least 2, 500 gallons of blood daily.

How many white blood cells are made every day?
10 Billion

How much skin does the body shed in an average lifetime?
40 lbs

Psalm 139: 14, "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex; your workmanship is marvelous!"

It's good to ZOOM OUT & WORSHIP our great God!

There is no other like Him, He is...
the King of Kings, the Beginning & the End, the One who was & is & is to come!

In a world that is bent on ignoring or merely tolerating Him, it is only right & proper for us to offer Him the gift of being worshipful.

For God is only worthy of our praise & worship!