

Under Wraps: The Gift We Never Expected

11/26	God is Expectant
12/3	God is Dangerous
12/10	God is Jealous
12/17	God is Faithful
12/24	God is Joyful
Christmas Eve	God is Here



Intro:

- Scale of 1-10, rate your level of Joy this Christmas. _____, What about your Happiness? _____
 - It was the best of Christmases, it was the worst of Christmases.
- What if Every Christmas could be filled with Joy? Why Not? (Luke 2:10-12)
- Joyful Christians and the most Joyful Christmas Celebrators
- “Joy to the World” and Psalm 98. Why Rejoice? (vs 1-3)
 - Marvelous Things He Has Done.
 - He Has Made His Salvation Known.
 - He Has Remembered His Love to Us. (Gen 3:15)
- The Response of Creation

I. God the Giver of Joy

- Why do we Give the gifts we give?
 - Something they need
 - Something that makes them smile
 - Something that enriches our relationship and view of the Giver
- God is a Joyful Giver (Lk 15)
- Praise and Worship as a means of returning love to the Giver

II. The Gift of Joy

- JOY vs HAPPY
 - Joy – What Happens IN you
 - Happy- What Happens TO you, and what you DO or DON'T do.
- Memory Verse: Philippians 4:4
- God's Path to Joy and Happiness
 - WHOLE
 - HOLY
 - HAPPY
- “Rejoice in the Lord Always”
 - JOY and SORROW (Love and Relation)
 - HAPPINESS and SORROW (Pain, Guilt, Sadness)

- The Christian Christmas Curmudgeons
 - Sacred Only Celebrations
- God wants us to have Joy and Happiness, but ultimate goal is Joy and Happiness can be a vessel to awaken the soul.
 - C.S. Lewis “Stabs of Joy”
- Christmas “Stabs of Joy”

III. What Does This Mean for Us?

- To Experience the Joy of Christmas, we must first receive the gift of Christmas.
- The Experience the Happiness of Christmas, we must Live out the Message of Christmas as God intended. (Holy, Healer, and Helpful)
- We can Experience the Joy of Christmas regardless of our Circumstances.

Conclusion:

- “The Rest of the Story”

