

THE  
**SUBTLE SIDE**   
*Christmas*  
LUKE 2:1-20

A closer look at the Christmas story reveals that ...

I. The real message of the season is best seen in the \_\_\_\_\_-sheep motif. (v. 8)

- A. Jesus is the Good Shepherd coming to care for His people. (Ps 23)
- B. This baby is the sacrificial Lamb giving Himself for our salvation. (Jn 1:29)

*Gift Idea:* NOTICE THOSE WHO NEED YOUR CARE AND KINDNESS DURING THIS HOLIDAY TIME.

II. The sign of the holidays isn't tinsel or trees but a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit in man. (v. 12)

- A. God wants us to notice the wrapping Jesus came in. (Phil 2:8)
- B. The Redeemer demonstrates that one of the greatest virtues of man is humility. (Prov 3:34)

*Gift Idea:* LOOK FOR A WAY TO DEMONSTRATE HUMILITY TOWARD SOMEONE NEEDING FORGIVENESS.

III. The mystery of the season is that often the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ are quiet and courteous. (vv. 13-15)

- A. With the announcement of the angels came pomp and circumstance, but the king was quiet. (Matt 21:5)
- B. God stands at our door and knocks courteously. (Rev 3:20)

*Gift Idea:* REMIND SOMEONE WHO IS HURTING THAT THE QUIET ACT OF PRAYER UNLEASHES THE POWER OF GOD.

IV. The spirit of the season teaches that true value is not found in things but in \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 16-18)

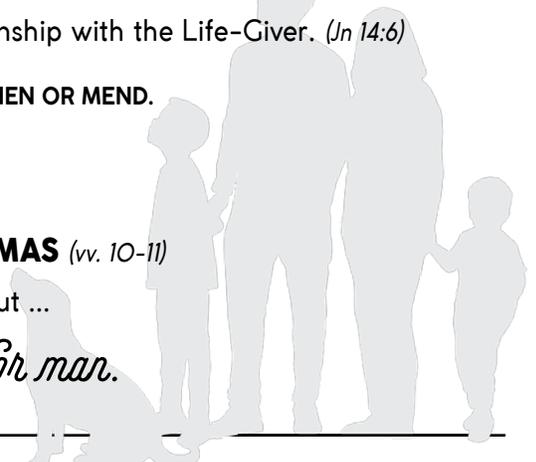
- A. The absence of costly things makes it clear that relationships are God's highest priority. (1 Jn 5:11-12)
- B. Eternal life is not a commodity one buys or acquires, but a relationship with the Life-Giver. (Jn 14:6)

*Gift Idea:* ASK JESUS IF THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP YOU NEED TO STRENGTHEN OR MEND.

**THE NOT-SO-SUBTLE SIDE OF CHRISTMAS** (vv. 10-11)

Religion is man searching for God, but ...

*Christianity is God searching for man.*



THE  
SUBTLE SIDE   
*Christmas*  
DEVOTIONAL LESSON

1. What are some of the small, subtle things about the Christmas season that you treasure the most? What glitzy, over-the-top things are the most distracting to you?

2. When have you received or experienced something precious that came through humble means or in an ordinary way? (It can be a physical item but also a treasured moment with a person, an act of kindness, etc.) How did it impact your life? Why do you think God brings some of the most profound moments in a quiet and subtle way?

3. Read Luke 2:1-20. Think of Luke as an artist who paints with words. His gospel is like an art gallery full of masterpieces, including a picture of God's perfect man—Jesus. Why do you think some would regard the book of Luke as "the most beautiful book ever written"? How did the sermon help you see this passage in a new light?

4. Which of the main points (I., II., etc.) or sub-points (A., B.) of the sermon were a new thought for you? What was most intriguing about that concept?

5. Which of the "GIFT IDEA" applications in the sermon notes was something you felt the Holy Spirit's gentle nudging to focus on? What person comes to mind, and what specific action toward them?

6. Spend some time writing down a list of how in this past year God has quietly ...

- protected you
- worked all things together for good
- moved behind the scenes
- given you salvation
- blessed you

Close in prayer, thanking God for the specific things you listed above. Ask Him to show you the subtle signs of His presence and His searching for you during this time of year.

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

*Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of "The Source" at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events). They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.*

**JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE THIS SATURDAY, DEC. 24.** Come celebrate the birth of the newborn king with your Christ Chapel family! We'll have Evensong services at 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6 and 9:30 p.m. so pick up Reservation Reminders in the Great Room, Atrium or at [www.ccbcfamily.org/evensong](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/evensong) and make a reservation for Next Generation Kids Care for children through age 3 online as well. Next Generation Kids Care is available during all services except the 9:30 p.m. service.

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.** Next Sunday, Dec. 25 join us for a Christmas Day celebration! There will be one service at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Children's Ministry, however, will not meet. Also, on Sunday, Jan. 1 there will be two worship services at 9:15 and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Children's Ministry will meet during both worship hours.

**CONSIDERING END-OF-YEAR GIVING? HERE'S MORE INFORMATION.** This year's giving will be divided between six different initiatives. There's more information on the envelope inserted in today's sermon notes as well as at [www.ccbcfamily.org/give2016](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/give2016). Your gift can be given with an envelope in the regular offering today, in person at the Church Office or mailed with a postmark on or before Saturday, Dec. 31.

**LADIES, KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR AT WINTER MORNING OF PRAYER.** On Saturday, Jan. 7, join other Christ Chapel ladies and spend a few hours with the Lord. We'll have breakfast, worship and a testimony on prayer. Afterward, we've planned plenty of time for you to pray and be with Jesus. Bring your Bible, journal and a heart ready to hear from the Lord. Email Kristin at [KristinH@christchapelbc.org](mailto:KristinH@christchapelbc.org) with questions.

**YOUNG COUPLES, JOIN US FOR AVENEW IN THE NEW YEAR.** Whether you are married, engaged or almost there, join us beginning Sunday, Jan. 8 at 12:15 p.m. in The Den for community, genuine stories, great teaching and a challenge to take home and apply each week. Questions? Email Lindsey at [LindseyS@christchapelbc.org](mailto:LindseyS@christchapelbc.org).

**NEW MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN IN JANUARY.** Men, while circumstances can sometimes leave us doubting God's goodness and even His greatness, the Word of God and history reveal something different. Join us for "Immortal Invisible," a study on the providence and sovereignty of God. And ladies, don't miss "Go! The Story of Exodus." In this dramatic redemption story, we'll watch as God leads His people out of bondage and into freedom, discovering God's grace, power and presence in our own lives as well. Learn more at [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events).