
GOD GAVE

Part 1 - Revelation

Introduction

Life's most powerful moments often transcend words

Other languages capture the indescribable with single words

What about the indescribable act of God becoming human?

This Christmas, we're focusing on the truth that 'God so loved the world that He gave...' (John 3:16a) culminating in the giving of His Son for the sake of the world – Jesus Immanuel.

Open Your Eyes

John's Gospel paints a cosmic view of Christmas, taking us behind the curtain!

The condescension of Christ: God becoming human, setting aside His glory for love.

A revelation that words cannot fully encompass: the infinite God entering finite humanity.

This revelation draws us beyond the familiar nativity scenes to the immense humility and love of God.

Human

God's glory revealed in unexpected ways:

- + Humility over pride, service over power, suffering over violence.

Jesus "lifted up" (John 12) contrasts Roman glory with divine glory through His crucifixion.

This redefines success and glory for believers: what are we seeking—worldly success or God's glory?

In the Modern World

Jesus doesn't only reveal God's glory but gives it to us through the Holy Spirit (John 17:22-23).

The Spirit enables us to reflect God's glory in our daily lives:

Loving, serving, sacrificing as Jesus did.

This is an ongoing invitation: How can we live out God's revelation today?

The Real Thing

Jesus bridges the gap between the transcendent and the personal:

- + Fully divine yet fully human, revealing God's love and presence.

For the first time, God is made fully knowable—Immanuel, God with us.

This gives us confidence to live boldly, knowing God is near.

Response

Today, we can step beyond the monotony of familiar Christmas traditions.

Rediscover the wonder of what God gave us:

- + “Do it again!”—God’s creation reflects His boundless vitality and joy (G.K. Chesterton)

What does it look like for you to live out God’s revelation today?

Discussion Questions

1. How do you personally relate to the idea that some of life’s most profound moments are hard to put into words? Can you think of an example?
2. What stands out to you about John’s description of Jesus as “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”? How does this challenge or deepen your understanding of Christmas?
3. In what ways does Jesus’ example of humility and sacrifice redefine success and glory for us? How does this challenge the values of the modern world?
4. How does the idea of God giving His glory to us through the Holy Spirit change how you think about how you live in your community and the world around you?
5. What steps can you take to move beyond the “familiarity” of Christmas and rediscover its wonder this year? What does that look like in your daily life?

Action Points

1. Spend time in Scripture this week reflecting on John 1:14-18 and Philippians 2:5-11. Meditate on what it means for God to “condescend” and become human.
2. Practice humility and service in a tangible way. Find an opportunity to show love through sacrifice or service to someone in need. It might be participating in our upcoming Christmas activities (Community Lunch, Family hamper packing, etc.).
3. Create a habit of gratitude this season. Each day, write down one thing you’re thankful for as a reminder of God’s grace upon grace.
4. Pray intentionally for the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s glory through you. Ask for strength to reflect Jesus’ love, humility, and grace on your frontline this week.