

# Christmas is...Love

Unwrapping the Surprises of the First Noel  
December 10, 2023



John 3:16 (CEV) – “God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.”

Genesis 3:15 (TLB) – “From now on you and the woman will be enemies, as will your offspring and hers. You will strike His heel, but He will crush your head.”

## Surprises of the First Noel

Luke 1:26-28 (NLT) – “In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!””

Luke 2:1-5 (NLT) – “At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.”

Luke 2:6-7 (NLT) – “And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.”

## The Surprises Show Us That:

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ more than you think.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (MSG) – “Now that we know we have Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God – let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all – all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.”

2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ more than you know.

Philippians 2:5-8 (GW) – “Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross.”

Psalm 139:1-18

Luke 12:7 (NLT) – “And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.”

3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ more than you realize.

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT) – “Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

Luke 1:37 (CEV) – “Nothing is impossible for God!”

Matthew 19:26 (NLT) – “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

Jeremiah 32:17 (NLT) – “O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!”

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT) – “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.”

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