

Jan 5, 2025 SERMON

A small boy was writing a letter to God about the Christmas presents he badly wanted. "I've been good for six months now," he wrote. But after a moment's reflection he crossed out "six months" and wrote "three".

After a pause, that was crossed out and he put "two weeks". There was another pause and that was crossed out too. He got up from the table and went over to the little nativity scene that had the figures of Mary and Joseph.

He picked up the figure of Mary and went back to his writing and started again: "Dear God, if ever you want to see your mother again...!"

Today is Epiphany, when the Magi travelled to seek for the Christ Child. But is it just another day, when we can stop singing the 12 days of Christmas, pack up all the parcels, Put the baby Jesus back in the box, Today is Epiphany, when the Magi travelled to seek for the Christ Child. hold like the little boy hold his mother for ransom until Christmas next year.

In the same light, Some one has compared Santa Claus and Jesus in a-piece called "Santa Versus Jesus."

Santa lives at the North Pole. Jesus lives everywhere.
Santa rides in a sleigh. Jesus rides on the wind and walks on the water.
Santa comes once a year. Jesus is an ever-present help.
Santa comes down your chimney. Jesus stands at your door of your heart and knocks.
Santa fills your stockings with goodies. Jesus supplies all your needs.
You have to wait in line to see Santa. Jesus is as close as the mention of His name.
Santa lets you sit in his lap. Jesus holds you in His hands.
Santa has a belly like a bowl of jelly. Jesus has a heart of love.
Santa's little helpers makes new toys. Jesus makes new lives.
Santa puts gifts under your tree. Jesus became our gift and died on a tree.)

In 2025 do we continue to seek the Christ child in our lives or do we allow the Santa side of the comparison over shadow the Christ side.

As we continue to seek Christ in our lives I am reminded this story:

It had been snowing all day & it was beginning to snow harder as the man's family rode-off without him to church. And he pulled up a chair & started to read the newspaper. A few minutes later there was a thudding sound at the kitchen window.

When he went to see what it was he found a flock of birds out in the back yard. They had been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter were trying to fly through the kitchen window.

Well he was a good man; a kind man; so he tried to think of something he could do so the birds wouldn't freeze. So he put on his overcoat & boots & stomped out thru the deep snow thinking to himself; "The barn, that will give them a nice shelter".

So he opened the barn door & turned on the lights; but the birds wouldn't go in. So then he thought food would bring them in. So he tromped back to the house; got some breadcrumbs & sprinkled a trail with them on into the barn.

But the birds ignored the breadcrumbs & went right on flopping around helplessly in the snow.

So he started walking around & waving his arms, trying to shoo them into the barn, but they scattered in every direction except into the warm, lit barn.

So the man thought to himself; "they find me a strange & terrifying creature & I can't seem to think of anyway to let them know that they can trust me".

And so puzzled & out done he thought about that fact for a little. Then he thought, "If only I could be a bird myself for a few minutes I could lead them to safety".

If only I could be a bird myself.....

Just then the church bells began to ring sending out the glad tidings of Christmas. That man stood silently for a minute & then sank down on his knees in the snow.

And he looked toward the sky & he whispered; "now I understand! Now I see why you had to become man...to show us the way...to save us from the storm.

you & I need to see that reflection of God's goodness & love this morning. The whole world needs to see it before it will be able to sing, "Peace on earth & good will to all man".

It needs it before it will even recognize & follow the star of high value & lasting salvation. It needs a Savior it can worship and a Saviour we need to continue to seek every day..