



**November 29/30, 2014**

**Christmas is Not Your Birthday**

If we really acted as if it was Jesus' birthday that we were celebrating, how might our Christmas be changed?

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**DISCUSS:**

What are some Christmas traditions or activities that you (or your family) like to do to remind you *whose* birthday it is?

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**FOCUS ON THE GUEST OF HONOR**

**[Q]** Read Hebrews 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15-20. As you read list possible titles and qualities of Jesus.

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**GIVE TO JESUS**

**[Q]** From the following passages, observe what is important to Jesus:

John 17:24, 26

Mark 12:29-31

John 14:12 (What is the important condition for works here?)

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**Note on John 14:12 from *The ESV Study Bible***

These “greater works” include evangelism, teaching, and deeds of mercy and compassion—in short, the entire ministry of the church to the entire world, beginning from Pentecost. (E.g., on the day of Pentecost alone, more believers were added to Jesus’ followers than during his entire earthly ministry up to that time; cf. Acts 2:41.) These works are “greater” not because they are more amazing miracles but because they will be greater in their worldwide scope and will result in the transformation of individual lives and of whole cultures and societies.

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[Q] What is the primary reason Jesus' works or signs were written down according to John 20:30-31? What is the implication for our works?

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## GIVE LIKE JESUS

Jesus gave gifts:

- with no expectation of receiving a gift of equal worth in return.
- to relieve pain and promote joy.
- that always point to a person's greater need; their spiritual need.

[Q] Can you think of some examples of the above in the life of Jesus?

[Q] According to the following passages, where does the strength to give like Jesus come from?

1 Corinthians 1:5-9

Colossians 3:1-4 (Read *The Message* paraphrase if possible.)

[Q] What needs to change in your focus, actions and/or attitude for this Christmas to be focused on Jesus?

Download your *Christmas To Do List* here: [tinyurl.com/ChristmasToDo](http://tinyurl.com/ChristmasToDo) (It's not what you think!)

Download 25 days of Advent readings that correlate to the Advent sermon series: [valleycommunity.cc/advent](http://valleycommunity.cc/advent)

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## PRAY

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Check out these family Advent resources: [valleycommunity.cc/resources/faithathome/faithathomeadvent2014](http://valleycommunity.cc/resources/faithathome/faithathomeadvent2014)