Message Outline

Teaching Tradition: The Gift Matthew 2:11, John 3:16



Intro: This Advent, looking at the Biblical text behind some Christmas traditions...

- Last three weeks, Traditions of Advent, Trees, and Lights...
- Today, gifts and Christmas (cf. Mt. 2:11)...
 - -Significance of gifts...
 - -History of Christmas gifts...
 - -St. Nickolas (3rd century), Wenceslas (9th century)...
- The giving of a Person...

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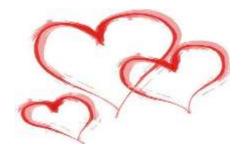
Read: John 3:16

• God's gift is Jesus (cf. Rom.6:23, 5:15, Eph.2:8-10, Jn.4:10, 2Tim.1:6, Acts 8:20).

Unwrapping God's Gift

- 1) U______ Motive of the Gift
 The gift motivated by God's love (cf. Rom.5:8, 1Jn.4:8)...
- 2) U______ of the Gift
 - μονογενής: "single of its kind, only."
 - God's not giving generic but His one and only Son!
- 3) U_____ of the Gift
 - Inclusivity of Christianity... "whoever"!
 - Not about color, class, caste, culture...all about Christ...inclusive offer!!!
- 4) U_____ the Gift
 - The need for fingers of faith...
 - True belief in the Bible moves the body to action...
 - Abraham as an example of faith in action (cf. Jms.2:20-24)...

4th Sunday of Advent: Candle of Love



¹⁸ This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

-Matthew 1:18-25 NLT