

Question:

When it's your birthday,
and someone takes you out
to lunch or dinner to celebrate,
where do you want to go?
Why?



The Sermon:

“Christmas Guests, Christmas Gifts?” #2 of 5

Gary Olsen,
Lead Pastor, Dr. Ministry

Bible Reading: Luke 2:8-20 NCV

Luke 2:8-20 NCV

⁸ That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep.

⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them.

The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and they became very frightened.

Luke 2 NCV

¹⁰ The angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid.

I am bringing you good news that
will be a great joy to all the people.

¹¹ Today your Savior was born in
the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord.

Luke 2 NCV

¹² This is how you will know him:
You will find a baby wrapped in pieces
of cloth and lying in a feeding box.”

¹³ Then a very large group of angels from heaven
joined the first angel,
praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Give glory to God in heaven,
and on earth let there be peace among
the people who please God.”

Luke 2 NCV

¹⁵ When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding trough.

Luke 2 NCV

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they told what the angels had said about this child.

¹⁸ Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2 NCV

¹⁹ But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them.

²⁰ Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It had been just as the angel had told them.



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ANGELS TELL THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2 *NCV*

¹⁰ The angel said to them...

¹¹ Today your Savior was born
in the town of David.

He is Christ, the Lord.

¹² This is how you will know him:
You will find a baby wrapped
in pieces of cloth
and lying in a feeding box.”

THE SHEPHERDS TELL THE PARENTS

Luke 2 *NCV*

¹⁶ So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding trough.

¹⁷ When they had seen him, they told what the angels had said about this child...

¹⁹ But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them.

MARY THE PARENT TELLS LUKE

Luke 2 *NCV*

¹⁹ But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them.

Acts *NASB*

21¹⁷ After we arrived in Jerusalem...

23²³ And he called to him two of the centurions and said, “Get two hundred soldiers ready ... to proceed to Caesarea...

²⁴ They were also to provide mounts to put Paul on and bring him safely to Felix the governor.

LUKE TELLS HIS READER(S)

Luke 1 *NASB*

² just as they were handed down to us
by those who from the beginning were
eyewitnesses and servants of the word,
³ it seemed fitting for me as well,
having investigated everything carefully
from the beginning,
to write it out for you in consecutive order,
most excellent Theophilus;
⁴ so that you may know the exact truth
about the things you have been taught.



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Mike Slaughter

**CHRISTMAS
IS
NOT
YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

*Experience
the Joy of Living
and Giving Like Jesus*

Here's what Jesus wants to do
about going out to eat on His birthday:

1) Make sure the whole world
gets invited to eat with Him!

“Christmas is not your birthday;
it’s Jesus’ birthday [so] reclaim
the broader missional meaning
of Jesus’ birth.

Fortunately, Jesus made his wish list
unquestionably clear
in his last teaching in the book of Matthew ...”

-- Mike Slaughter, *It’s Not Your Birthday*

“³⁵ I was hungry, and you gave me food.
I was thirsty, and you gave me something
to drink....

anything you did for even the least
of my people here,
you also did for me.” Matthew 25:35, 40

-- Mike Slaughter, It's Not Your Birthday

“At Christmas, we celebrate a messiah,
a deliverer who was born to die.
So we too are called to give ourselves
sacrificially with Christ for the world
that God loves.”

-- Mike Slaughter, *It's Not Your Birthday*

Here's what Jesus wants to do
about going out to eat on His birthday:

2) Make sure the whole world
gets what else they really need!

Matthew 4⁴ *NCV*

Jesus answered,

“It is written in the Scriptures, [Deut 8³]
‘A person lives not on bread alone,
but by everything God says.’ ”

“We need to go beyond good deeds.
We need to name the name
and tell others the good news about Jesus.
Can you imagine how awful it would be
if you allowed me to see
some incredible power at work in your life,
and then never showed you its source?

-- Mike Slaughter, It's Not Your Birthday

This is what witnessing is all about:

show and tell...

Show (good deeds) and
then tell (the reason).

-- Mike Slaughter, *It's Not Your Birthday*

Video

ACTION STEP #1

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT MATCHING FUND

ACTION STEP #2

THE OUTREACH CHRISTMAS MARKET



Rolling Hills Community Church Outreach Christmas Market

Give gifts that keep on giving!

Purchase Gifts

November 27th thru December 25, 2011

Joseph & Mary

Struggling parents-to-be, even refugees.

<input type="checkbox"/> Family-Life Ministry, RHCC ~ Teaching parents to minister to their children at home.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> World Vision ~ Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children and families.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Samaritan's Purse ~ Provides aid to victims of war, poverty, natural disaster.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> CROP Walk/Church World Service ~ Raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Angels

Spreading the Good News.

<input type="checkbox"/> RHCC Bible Fund ~ Distribution of Bibles to visitors and homeless.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bible Society ~ Brings life changing message of the Bible where needed most.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Biblica ~ Transforming lives through God's Word.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gideons ~ -Dedicated to Bible distribution and evangelism.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Shepherds

Unemployed, working poor, etc.

<input type="checkbox"/> RHCC Food Pantry ~ Provides food to families in our community.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hill Country Community Ministries ~ Provides food and clothing for Travis & Williamson counties.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Samaritan Health ~ Provides low cost healthcare to the uninsured.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Church Under the Bridge ~ Ministry For the Homeless in Austin.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Long Friends ~ Local Animal Adoption Center	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Wisemen & Herod

International missions, persecuted Christian

<input type="checkbox"/> Knit-A-Square ~ South Africa Children's Blanket Project	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Timothy Stains Memorial Children's Home and Orphanage in Madurai, South India	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Voice of the Martyrs ~ Aiding Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith in Christ.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Invisible Children Uganda ~ working with youth affected by Africa's longest running war.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Baby Jesus

Infants and childrens ministries.

<input type="checkbox"/> RHCC Youth Programs ~ VBS, TreeHouse, Roots Troop, Planet Youth	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hope Connections Pregnancy Center ~ Provides Services for Unplanned Pregnancy.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> RHEEEP ~ Rolling Hills Early Education Scholarship Fund.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Any Baby Can ~ Provides crisis management for families with critically ill or disabled children.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

Inn Keepers

Hospitality ministries to travelers, homeless, refugees, etc.

<input type="checkbox"/> Ronald MacDonald House ~ Provides comfort and care to children and their families during illness.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Seton League House ~ Provides families a place to stay while loved ones are hospitalized.	Cards: _____ \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Safe Place Shelter ~ Provides shelter and assistance to abused women and children.	Cards: _____ \$ _____

SHOPPERS NAME: _____

TOTAL: _____

Make your check to RHCC and note "OCM." Attach check to the shopping list and place in envelope.
Donations are tax deductible.

ACTION STEP #3

GIVING BIBLES AS GIFTS

ACTION STEP #4

GIVE WORD OF MOUTH

The angels tell the shepherds,
the shepherds tell the parents,

Mary the parent tells Luke,

Luke tells his reader(s),

WE TELL IT NEXT TO OTHERS!



ACTION STEP #5

CELEBRATING JESUS!

Luke 2 *NCV*

¹² This is how you will know him:
You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of
cloth and lying in a feeding box.”

¹³ Then a very large group of angels from heaven
joined the first angel, praising God
and saying:

¹⁴ “Give glory to God in heaven,
and on earth let there be peace
among the people who please God.”

Luke 2 *NCV*

²⁰ Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard.



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IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM...

