

THREE CHRISTMAS GIFTS



TEXT: Luke 2:7-12

INTRO.: **CHRISTMAS...** Jesus is the **ONLY** reason for the Season! The reason we give gifts at this time of year is to remember His birth! It is sad that sometimes He is the only one Who doesn't get gifts for His birthday! But He has given us **THREE CHRISTMAS GIFTS** that we will unwrap in the next few minutes...

I. AN EMPTY CRADLE:

- A. Of Course the Cradle (or manger) Was Not Empty When He Was Born
- B. Also the Cradle Was Not Empty When the Lowly Shepherds Came:
- C. But It Was Empty When Anyone Else (including the Wise Men) Came Searching for Him.

NOTE: By the time the "Wise Men" came (about a year or two later) Jesus was not in a manger or cradle, but in a "house" (mentioned 9 times) and He was thus no longer a new born infant.

Praise the Lord the manger or cradle is empty forever and we too, like the Wise Men are looking for **the King of Kings**, not a little helpless baby!

II. AN EMPTY CROSS:

- A. More Importantly, the Cross is Empty Too!
- B. While Every Believer Today Thanks the Lord for the Incarnation, We Praise Him More for the Crucifixion When He Came to Die in Our Place and in Our Behalf!
 - 1. The Bible says that He became a curse for us!

Gal. 3:13 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

- 2. Thankfully He didn't stay on that cross and remain a "curse" but came down to become a Blessing (the opposite of a curse) and our Savior!

III. AN EMPTY CRYPT:

- A. Most Importantly the Crypt or Grave is Also Empty!
 - 1. Without the empty tomb we would be yet in our sins without hope or Heaven.
 - 2. There is no "Good Friday" without an Easter Sunday!!!
 - 3. We need to be thankful for the **Incarnation**, the **Crucifixion** and the **Resurrection**!

CONCL.: These then are the **THREE CHRISTMAS GIFTS** the Lord gave to us this Christmas Season! (The Cradle, the Cross and the Crypt) Regardless whatever gifts you may receive tonight or on Christmas they all pale into insignificance when compared to these three. **Praise the Lord!**