P207 **GRACE NOTES Radio Program**

SERIES: The Christmas Story

TITLE: Lives on in you

SONGS: Messiah Medley

Best Gift of All

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. This is the last program in our Christmas story presentation. We've seen that God chose people who were, young, old, lowly, elite, and even peculiar, to play the roles. The common thread was that they were willing and ready. The beauty of the Christmas story is not just that Jesus CAME to earth, but WHY He came. Listen and hear more…

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The story doesn't end with Jesus' birth.
The angel called Him, 'Emmanuel', which means 'God with us'.

He came to LIVE among us so we could see God and know His love.
He took no shortcuts, no easy road.
He came as a baby, not as a man - to experience what we experience.
He was born into a poor family, not to royalty - so everyone could identify with Him.
And He suffered more than we'll ever suffer – so he can empathize with us.

Hebrews 4:15-16 says…

> **We have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities for He was in all ways tempted such as we, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

But the most important reason He came was to meet our deepest need.
His Name is Jesus, which means 'The Lord is Salvation'.

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.
If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.
If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.
If our greatest need had been pleasure
God would have sent us an entertainer.
But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Savior.

The joy of Christmas comes in knowing "Who Jesus is".

WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?
by Barbara Sandbek
As He lies there asleep
on His mother's strong arm
Does He know what's to come?
Does He know all the harm
that the world will inflict
though much good He will do?
Have you given much thought?
WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

As He heals the lame man
and gives sight to the blind
Does He know they'll reject Him?
Does He know in His mind
that they'll spit on Him, mock Him,
and then crucify
on a cross that's not fit
for any man to die?
So why did He come here?
What good did it do?
Have you given much thought?
WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

He came to redeem us
from sin's penalty,
to die in our place
so that we'd be set free.
The sin of the world
on His shoulders did rest
and through His own sacrifice
the world will be blest.
He knew He would die.
That's what He had to do.
So what do you think of Him?
WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

Is Jesus just simply
a child in a manger,
a man on a cross,
a Galilean stranger?
Does He have a place
in your heart as your Savior?

Are you living for Him?
Have you tasted His favor?
If you've not accepted
His gift of Salvation
you've accepted the way
to eternal damnation.
So believe in His Name.
He died just for you.
Won't you give it much thought?
WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

John 3:17-18 says...God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God.

Is Jesus your Savior? If not, just pray this prayer...

God in heaven...thank you for sending your Son to show me You love me. I know I've sinned against You and can't come to You except through Jesus. I believe He died for me, and rose again to save me. I ask Him to come into my life, and be my Savior and Lord. AMEN.

If you prayed that prayer, you've received the best gift you could ever receive.

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***** BEST GIFT OF ALL *** 4:12**

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Candles glow from frosted windows
Rooms are filled with twinkling lights,
There's a manger scene, boughs of evergreen,
Someone is singing 'Silent Night'...
And every gift my heart remembers, of easy laugher, dear old friends
Precious faces and smiles,the dancing eyes of a child,
All remind me once again:
The Best Gift of All is JESUS
His love knows no season or place
You can see Him in the firelight
Reflected on each face...
And though we cherish the blessings of Christmas, When his love seems especially near...
The Best Gift of All is Jesus - ALL THROUGH THE YEAR!

Christmas-time is like a window, all the world looks through once a year,
But the light they find, as they look inside,
Is shining every day we are here...
No need to wait until December, for all His promise holds in store,
Every moment we live, we'll know the peace he can give
As we find this truth once more, that
The Best Gift of All is JESUS!
His love knows no season or place
You can see Him in the firelight,
Reflected on each face,
And though we cherish the blessings of Christmas, When His love seems especially near...
The Best Gift of All is Jesus...
ALL THROUGH THE YEAR

There was much suffering in the lives of the Christmas story players, but their blessings are eternal - not just for them but for you and me.

Let's review the cast of players and their roles. See if you can find yourself in one or more of these people…

Are you like Isaiah? - you've been given a promise and faith to believe it. You may not see the answer in your lifetime but pray, pray, pray.

We should all be John the Baptists – promoting the Lord's Gospel message and preparing the way, by the life we lead, so others are drawn TO Him, not FROM Him.

Are you in a time of barrenness, like Elizabeth - waiting for God's blessing? Hold fast. He may make you wait but He is never late.

Elizabeth and Zechariah lived upright lives. They were ready for service. If God called you to serve Him, would you be prepared, or would you have to 'get ready', and maybe miss the opportunity?

Joseph was willing to play a supportive role. We need more 'behind the scenes' people who can be content to help without the accolades. If you're one of these, be assured, your ministry is every bit as important to God, as that of the stage people.

Last but not least is Mary, who lived a Godly life. She was ready to deliver the message of Christ, and was willing to do it God's way. Oh, that we might be the same as we play our part to the Glory of God and reap eternal rewards.

Is there a sequel to this story? You bet! And I think you might be in it!
God chose to use mankind to spread His 'Good News' message and redeem the world. We're as important in His future plan as Mary and Joseph were.
If we don't follow His commands, think of the impact it could it have on the eternity of our friends and family.

That night in Bethlehem was just a beginning.
Jesus came to bring glad tidings of great joy to ALL people – hope for eternity.
He will come again - not to die - but as King.
And every knee will bow and every tongue will confess - JESUS is LORD.

********** **WRITER: <u>George Frideric Handel</u>**
**** MESSIAH MEDLEY **** **Arr. 1987 Birdwing Music**
********** **(admin. By The Sparrow Corp ASCAP)**

And the Glory, the Glory of the Lord, shall be revealed
And all flesh shall see it together, together
For the mouth of the Lord, has spoken it
And the Glory – the Glory of the Lord.
For unto us a Child is born
Unto us, a Son is given – unto us a Son is given
And the government shall be upon His shoulders
And His Name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,
The Everlasting Father, the Prince of peace,
The Everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.
Glory to God - Glory to God in the Highest
Good will towards men. Good will towards men.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice greatly!
The King cometh unto thee
Who is this King of Glory? Who is this King of Glory
The Lord strong & mighty. The Lord strong and mighty.
The Lord of Hosts. His is this King of Glory.
And He shall reign forever and ever!
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords
And He shall reign forever & ever.
Halleluja!

We hope you've enjoyed our Christmas series.
If you've been blessed by this ministry - so please write and tell us at....

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or email us through our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.

Why not send along a Christmas gift to support this ministry?

Join us on our next program - we'll continue with our previous series.