

Fri., Dec. 23, 2011

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Scripture

Luke 1:67-80

¹An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Devotional

“By the tender mercy of our God...” Luke 1:78

What beautiful words these are “By the tender mercy of our God.” This season is not only wrapped in the gift that God gave us by sending us His son, Jesus, but also in his tender mercy for us. That was the motivation behind sending His son, Jesus.

The gift He sent was just what we need. How often do we receive well-meaning gifts during the Christmas season and our first thought as we express our thanks to the giver is “What will I do with this?” followed by “I can re-gift it.”

We talk about our need for Jesus often. However, I know I do not fully comprehend how much I need him. Tender mercy tells me that we are beloved by God and that we have no inkling of what bad shape we are in without Jesus.

Let's be thankful for the wonderful gift of His Son but also for his tender mercy toward us.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus. He is the gift I truly need. Help me to understand, today, the tenderness of your mercy toward me and help me to express that same tenderness to all those that you bring across my path each and every day. Amen.