

Myrrh Maids

The Glory of the Tent Peg Story

December 22, 2024

Today we're asking the same ol' question that all kids ask:

What should we get our Father for Christmas? What do you get our *Creator* and *Savior*, after you've given Him **your whole heart**, and **trusting-obedience**, and **dedication to growing in showing Christ-like kindness** as His *ambassador*, and of course **godly sorrow when you fall short**? What *more* could He *want*? What can *we*, as His *family*, give to the *Lord*? He *made* a list.



Give to the Lord, O families ... Give to the Lord **glory** AND **strength**. [Strength is shorthand for: **loving** Him with all our **heart, soul, mind, and strength**, which includes loving our **neighbor** as our **self**. Give **that** to the Lord. **Obviously**. But, **not so obviously**] Give to the Lord the **glory** due His **name**; bring an **offering**, [of the **glory**] and come into His **courts**. [With **praise!**] – Psalm 96:7-8 NKJ



We're often directed to give God **glory**. But, **how does He define the glory we're to give?** He *made* a list. And it might *surprise* you. Because, I do not think that word *means* what you *think* it *means*. You see:



It is the **glory of God** to **conceal** a **matter**; [that's what He's given us; but] to **search out** a **matter** [that] is **the glory of kings**. – Proverbs 25:2 NIV



And [Revelation makes it **clear** that] [Jesus] has made **us kings** and **priests** to His **God** and **Father**, [so] to **Him** be [the] **glory** [of **kings!**] – Revelation 1:6 NKJ



[Because] The [hidden] **glory of God** [is what] gives [His holy City] **light** ... [for] the **kings of the earth** will **bring their glory into it** – Revelation 21:23-24 ESV



[Which is **why** Jesus said, that] "You are the **light of the world**. A **city on a hill** [that] **cannot** [and **must not**] be **hidden**." – Matthew 5:14 NIV

[Because, as He **also** said] "Those who **speak** on their own **seek glory for themselves**. [But] Those who **seek the glory of** [the **Father**] are **people of truth**" – John 7:18 CEB

So **how** do we **give** God **glory**? By **seeking what He's hidden for us to find, in His Word**. By **asking**. And **knocking**. And **receiving**. (Mt 7:7-11) And then **bringing it to Him by treasuring it in our heart**. (Mt 6:20-21) Where He **lives**. (Lk 17:21) It's like when you're **young**, and you go to the **store**, and your **mom** gives you \$5 to buy her a **present**. **It's not about the gift, it's about the heart**. The **unseen part**. **The gift is just a means of communicating love**. And in the **same way**:

[Faith is] [just] the [tangible] **evidence** of things [like **love**, that are **otherwise**] **not seen**. ... [Which is **why**] He is a **rewarder** of those who **diligently seek Him**. – Hebrews 11:6 KJV

[So] "Search the **Scriptures**, for **in** them ... are **those who testify of Me**." – John 5:39 JUB

So, what say we do a little **Christmas shopping!** Starting with **this hidden gem** in **Isaiah**:



How *beautiful* upon the *mountains* are the feet of Him who brings *Good News*, [of great joy! Otherwise known as the *Gospel*] who proclaims *peace*, who brings *glad tidings* of good things, who *proclaims Salvation*, [in Hebrew *Yeshua/Jesus*] [and] says ... “Your *God reigns!*” – Isaiah 52:7 NKJ



Every *Christmas* Shar and I hang an *imprint* of our *first Grandson’s feet* as a *decoration*. Cuz what’s *cuter* than *tiny mistletoes*? I made a *mess* of it when I *tried* something *similar* with his *father!* But what *is* it about the “*beautiful*” “*feet*” of “Him who *brings the Gospel*” of “*Jesus*” – which of *course* was Jesus. But, *nine months before* the *manger*:



The angel Gabriel was sent by God ... to a virgin ... [whose] name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “*Rejoice*, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; [but then added] *blessed are you among women!*” ... [And] [suddenly] she was *troubled* at his *saying*, [Why? Because Mary *knows God’s Word!* Why do you think He *chose* her to *raise His Son?*] and [so, she] *considered* what *manner* of *greeting* this was. – Luke 1:26-29 NKJ



Cuz **it’s a direct quote from the OT Song of Deborah**, in *Judges*, which says:

Blessed among women be *Jael*, blessed among *tent-dwelling* women. [Why? Because, when *Sisera*, the *enemy* of God *tried* to *hide* under a *rug* in her *tent*] ... [Jael] reached for the [tent] *peg* [and] the workman’s *mallet*. [And] She *hammered Sisera*, [and] *crushed* his *head* [with the *spike*, and] ... *at her feet* he *sank* and *fell* ... *slain* – Judges 5:24-27 NAB

And the *writer* of **Psalm 83** uses **Jael’s head-crushing tent-peg action prophetically** in regard to God’s *final blow* against those who *hate* the *Lord* and *consult* together *against* Him, saying:

[O God] those who *hate* You have *lifted up* their *head*. They have taken *crafty counsel* ... and *consulted* together ... [So] *Deal with them* ... as with *Sisera* – Psalm 83:9 NKJ

And then the prophet *Zechariah*, takes the *prophetic baton*, when God *adds on*, that:

“The *people* wend their way like *sheep* ... in *trouble* because there is no [good] *shepherd*. [Therefore] My *anger* is kindled against [all] the *shepherds* ... For the *Lord* of hosts will *visit* His *flock* [Jesus said, “I am the *Good Shepherd*. [Because] The *Good Shepherd* *gives* His [own] *life* for the *sheep*.” (Jn 10:11)] ... From Him comes the *cornerstone*, [a *gem* of *glory* you likely *have*; and] from Him the *tent peg*” [of *Jael*; a *gem* you likely *don’t*] – Zechariah 10:2-4 NKJ

[And through *Isaiah*, adds] “I will *fasten* Him as a *peg* [when He *hangs* on the *cross*] ... [but] He will become a *glorious throne* to His *Father’s house*. [In your *heart*. And] *They* will *hang* on Him *all the* [Father’s *hidden*] *glory*” [about Him] – Isaiah 22:22-24 NKJ

Mary knew God’s *Word* well enough to *consider* the *hidden glory* in Gabriel’s *greeting!* “*Rejoice!* You’ve been *chosen!* God is *with* you! **You’re gonna be like ol’ Jael the tent-spike head-crusher!**”

[So] The angel said to her, “Do not be *afraid*, Mary, [you’re not the one *crushing* the *head*, but you *are* going to *supply* and *hold* the *tent peg*] for ... *behold*, you will *conceive* in your *womb* and bring *forth* a *Son*, and shall call His name *Jesus*. ... and the *Lord* God will *give* Him the *throne* of His *father David*. ... Then *Mary* said, [You] “*Behold* the *maidservant* of the *Lord!* Let it *be* to *me* according to your *word*.” – Luke 1:30-38 NKJ



[Wherein] The Lord God *said* to the *serpent*, [from the *beginning*, this *gem*] ... “From now on, *you* and the *woman* will be *enemies*, and your [unholy] [seed] and her [holy] [Seed] will be *enemies*. [Until] *He* will [triumphantly] *crush your head*, and [at that same moment] *you* will [only pathetically manage to] *strike His heel!*” – Genesis 3:14-15 NLT

Cuz **the peg that held the feet of the Seed to the cross, was a means for our tent peg to crush our enemy's head!** Paul is clear who the Seed is here.

The promises [regarding the woman's holy Seed] were [also] spoken to *Abraham* and to *his Seed*. [Notice that] The Scripture does *not* say “and to *seeds*,” meaning *many* people, but “and to your *Seed*,” meaning *one* person, who is *Christ*. – Galatians 3:16 NIV

[Because, as Jesus said] “If a *seed* of *grain* [Oh, it's *grain*, eh?] is not *put* in the *ground* to *die*, it will be *only* a [lonely] *seed*. But if it *dies*, it will bear *many* seeds.” – John 12:24 WEV

So, store up these gems: **the Seed bore our sin as both lamb and grain offering.** And we know His mom knew His glory, cuz she brilliantly weaves His story from Scripture when she greets her cousin.

[Beginning with] “My soul *glorifies the Lord* [with what I've *found!*] and my spirit *rejoices in God my Savior* [who comes as the *spike* to *crush the enemy's head* ... like *Sisera!* And] ... from *now on* [like *Jael*] all generations will call *me blessed* – Luke 1:46-48 NIV

[And ending with] “As He *spoke* to ... *Abraham* and to *his Seed* forever.” – Luke 1:55 NKJ

And that line, “*rejoices in God my Savior*” is a quote from the prophet *Habakkuk*, who says:

You came out to *save Your people* [How?] ... You *crushed the [head]* [i.e. the *leader*] of the *wicked ones* ... [Therefore] I will *rejoice in God my Savior*. – Habakkuk 3:18 NCV

What *all* went through *Mary's mind* as Jesus grew into a *toddler*? **How often did she kiss His toes and say, “These little feet are gonna crush that ol' serpents' head!”** Having *no concept* of how our Father's *first prophetic Word* would be *fulfilled* when His *Word* would become *flesh* as both *High Priest and Sacrifice*. Now, *fasten your seatbelts* and *fast-forward* 33 years, to *Martha and Mary's. Different Mary*, but *still a maidservant* of the *Lord*. Maybe even a *myrrh-maid-servant*. Because:



Mary took a [securely sealed] **alabaster flask of a pound of very costly oil of spikenard**, [tent-spike-nard!] **then she broke the flask** [cuz it *didn't* have a *lid*; cuz it was *sealed* like something you'd *find* in an *Egyptian tomb*] **and poured it on His head** as He **sat at the table**, [and] **anointed [His] feet ... and the house was filled with the fragrance** – Mt 26:7; Mk 14:3; Jn 12:3 NKJ

And the *guests* and *disciples* were in *shock* because it was worth “*more than 300 denarii!*” (Mk 14:5) \$65,000! And they *all* go at *Mary* for *wasting* it on *Jesus!*

“**Leave her alone,**” said Jesus. “**She has done a beautiful thing to Me.**” [“How beautiful on the *mountains* are the *feet* of Him who *brings the Gospel*” (Is 52:7)] **She did what [little] she could. She [just] poured perfume on My body beforehand.** [But] **It was intended** [By whom?] **that she should save this perfume to prepare Me** [In what way?] **for the day of My burial.** [Not the *burial itself*] – Mt 26:10-12; Mk 14:6-8; Jn 12:7 NIV

And *this* is closest *chance* she'll *get* to *do* what *must* be *done* *beforehand* for Him. Because, Exodus (13:21) tells us **the Lord led Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness "in a column of smoke"**. And Jude (1:5) tells us that **that was none other than "Jesus"**. And, get this, the *Song of Solomon* compares *Jesus-in-the-smoke* to a *Bridegroom King*, with *this* intriguing question:

Who is that coming up from the *wilderness* like a *column of smoke*, [and] *perfumed* with *myrrh* and *frankincense*, [along] with *all the fragrant powders*? – Song 3:6 NRS

God gave Moses two secret formulas: (1) **A sacred myrrh mixture, used to anoint the heads of the priests.** (Ex 30:23-30) And (2) **a holy frankincense blend, used as a pleasing fragrance with the combined Lamb and grain offering.** (Lev 2:1; Ex 29:41) And, when the people had *sinned* against God:

Aaron [the priest] *offered* the [frank]incense to *remove* their *sin*. – Numbers 16:47 NCV

But, **the Myrrh mixture and the Frankincense blend were never combined. Except once. Prophetically.** And **it was called ... spikenard.** Found *only* in the *story* of *Mary anointing Jesus' head* and *feet* as He *sat* at the *table*, and in the *Song of Songs*, when the *bride* says:



^{1:3} *Pleasing* is the *fragrance* of your *perfumes* ... *poured out*. [As one, by her] No wonder the *maidens* love you! [The *myrrh-maidens*; because] ... ^{1:12} *While* the *king* is at his *table*, my *spikenard* sends forth its *fragrance*. [But alas, in the *song*, the *Bridegroom King* must *go his way*] ^{4:6} ... to the *mountain of myrrh* [as *high priest*] and to the *hill of frankincense*. [As that *lamb and grain offering*. But then *she smells* like him, and he says] ^{4:7} ... there is *no spot in you*. [Like with *Jesus* and His *glorious bride*, the *church*; (Eph 5:27) because] ^{4:14} ... *Spikenard* [is made with all] *frankincense* [and] *Myrrh* – Song 1:3, 4:6-14 NKJ

Now, *500 years before Jesus' birth*:

Daniel [was placed] in charge of all [the] *wise men*. [Of the *east*] – Daniel 2:48 NIV

And in **the angel Gabriel's only other named appearance**, he tells Daniel *when* and *where* Christ will *come* and will be *anointed*; and tells him to *seal it up*; (Dan 9:21-25) and says that Daniel will *shine* like a *star* when he *leads others* to *righteousness*. (Dan 12:24) And Daniel's *royal name*, by the way, was **Belteshazzar**, which means: **One who lays up treasures in secret.** So, when:

They gave [Jesus] *treasures of gold*, [and] *frankincense* and *myrrh*. – Matthew 2:11 NCV

I think it's *two gifts*: *gold* and **a \$65,000 sealed jar of spikenard, with a note that said, "Don't open until!"** Cuz Daniel's the only one who could've *sent* it, and *intended* it for the *day* of *Jesus' death*. And **Jesus trusted Mary to save it, to prepare Him, to save those who trust Him.** By *nailing Satan* like ol' *Sisera* and *crushing the head* of *sin* and *death* as both *High Priest* (Heb 4:14) and *Sacrifice!* (1 Pet 1:18-19)

[So, what can we *Jr. kings of glory* say, *but*] *Glory to God* in the *highest!* – Luke 2:14 NIV

[Because] *Eternal life* [goes] to those who ... *seek* for *glory* – Romans 2:5-8 NKJ

[So] Let my *mouth* be *filled* with Your *praise* and with Your *glory* – Psalm 71:8 NKJ

And let the *whole earth* be *filled* with His *glory*. Amen and Amen. – Psalm 72:19 NKJ

Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.