

EXTRAVAGANT PROVISION

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18*

SUPERNATURAL VISITS

_____	→	Mary	Luke 1:26-38
_____	→	Joseph	Matthew 1:19-25
_____	→	Wise Men	Matthew 2:1-12

DIVINE PERSON

Theos

_____ Isaiah 9:6, John 1:1, John 20:28, Romans 9:5, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 1:8, II Peter 1:1

Kyrios

_____ Luke 1:43, Luke 2:11, Matthew 3:3, Matthew 22:44

I AM

Self-named Eternal Existing One
John 8:56-59 (compare Exodus 3:14)

Exact Imprint of God's Nature

Hebrews 1:1-13

MIRACULOUS EXCHANGE

Infinite Sacrifice [Death for _____]

Only someone who is infinite God could bear the full penalty for all the sins of all those who would believe in him—any finite creature would have been incapable of bearing that penalty.
Wayne Grudem

Christ appeared once for all to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 9:26

Complete Righteousness [Guilt for _____]

The imputation of Christ's righteousness is the precious foundation of our full acceptance and everlasting inheritance of life and joy.
John Piper

Through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. Romans 5:18

GIFT EXERCISE

Get in the middle of the gift God gave to you in Jesus. Picture what it means to be completely destitute with your back against the wall and no way to help yourself. Maybe you have an experience from your own life that helps you relate to this concept. Maybe you know someone else whose story mirrors this type of situation. Maybe you can recall a scene from a movie or book that helps you visualize what it means to be hopeless and helpless with no options.

See your own spiritual story in those examples. See your need for something extravagant.

Now trust God to actually let you experience a real life situation that will help you learn of His extravagant provision.

- Ask God again to make this Christmas season one like no other. Ask Him to let you *give* to others out of what you are learning.
- Identify a situation where someone is in desperate need of help. Look for a need—a real need—that is beyond the ability or capacity of the person to provide for himself or herself. (a meal, a car, a job, school tuition, a passing grade, a reason to live, etc.)
- Be the source of provision in that situation.

Remember, the measuring stick of extravagance is from the perspective of the person in need. The gift is not given out of your excess (i.e. what you *don't* need), but it is given based on what the other person *does* need.

Take as long as you need for God to lead you and then use you as a source of extravagant provision. This is not about giving back because God gave to you. You are not just seeking to follow His example. You are experiencing what it is like to extend a gift to someone who is utterly helpless to do that thing for himself or herself—and then asking God to use that experience to let you understand Christmas like you never have before.

Whatever you see in the other person's circumstances or situation, whatever you see in the other person's response—that is your side of the story. Let God use all of that to teach you about the gift you have in Jesus in new ways.

JESUS CHRIST: GIFT OF CHRISTMAS