

DATE: 24 DEC 2023 | SPEAKER: PS JOACHIM TAN
TOPIC: THE PRECIOUS GIFT | SCRIPTURE: VARIOUS PASSAGES

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that Jesus is the most precious gift that believers should hold onto tightly.
2. Grasp the magnitude of God's love for everyone – believers and non-believers.

SERMON SUMMARY

Christmas is about God giving the most precious, priceless gift to humanity – Jesus Christ. There are four great truths to this precious gift – it came from heaven, it changes everything for us, it is a personalised gift, and it was given to meet our greatest need. May we all cherish this precious gift God has given us.

SERMON RECAP

1. This precious gift comes from heaven

- This is the most priceless gift from heaven. And it now belongs to us.
- This is no ordinary gift. The gift that God has given to all mankind comes from heaven. This gift is the Lord Jesus Christ ([Philippians 2:9-10](#)).
- No gift in this universe and all throughout heaven can match this most precious gift given to us by God ([Isaiah 9:6](#)). It is the ultimate gift heaven ever had and could offer for all eternity.
- The ultimate, unrivalled, precious gift from heaven ([John 3:13](#)) was given to us.
- In [John 3:16](#), the word 'so' in the original Greek language is an adverb for "intensity". You will never give a priceless precious gift to anyone, unless you love that person deeply. During the first Christmas, God showed His deepest love for us by giving us the ultimate gift called Jesus Christ. This precious gift also showed the value God had placed on humanity ([Galatians 3:13](#)).

2. This precious gift changes everything for us

- This gift has such a deep and lasting impact that it will transform our lives forever.
- [Galatians 5:1](#), [John 8:36](#) – this gift will set us free.
- Receiving this gift from heaven transforms our lives.

3. The precious gift is a personalised gift

- Jesus is a personalised gift that is not manufactured and not random. God had us in mind when He gave Jesus to the world.
- He knows our needs. He knows our cries. He knows our fears. Jesus is our personal friend, our personal saviour. He is our comforter and our healer.

4. This gift was given to meet our greatest need

- [Isaiah 9:6](#) – God will not waste the most precious gift if He felt that we don't need it.
- We needed a Saviour ([Luke 2:11](#)). We needed salvation ([John 3:16-17](#)).
- We needed to be saved from our sin ([Romans 6:23](#)), we needed to be saved from the judgement of our sins, and we needed to be saved from the pits of hell so that we can be reunited with God our Father.

Conclusion:

- When we receive this gift, we have to open it. This gift can remain unopened if we put it aside and continue with life.
- You can choose to open it and have this precious gift with you as you journey through life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **One of the truths of this precious gift is that it was given to meet our greatest need. What is one of the needs you have that only Jesus can meet/fulfil? How did Jesus meet that need?**

Leader's Notes

We have received our greatest gift, the gift of salvation when we accepted Christ. However, as we are still living in this fallen world, we still have needs that we cannot fulfil by ourselves. What is one of the needs that only Jesus can meet in your life? Share with the cell.

Transition

Jesus is the One Thing we need in our lives. Everything else comes when we have Him.

2. **Share with your cell how this precious gift has changed your life forever.**

Leader's Notes

This precious gift has such a lasting and deep impact that the one who receives it fully will have a changed life. This gift transforms every part of us. Take some time to share with the cell your experience of receiving this gift and spend some time as a cell to thank the Lord for this precious gift.

Transition

Hold tightly to this gift (Jesus) because this is the most priceless gift heaven ever had.

3. **Is there anyone that you would like to share this gift? Come up with practical ways to do that.**

Leader's Notes

We should not keep this most precious gift only to ourselves. This gift is not meant to be kept but shared. Sharing this gift brings great delight to both you and to God. Think of someone you would like to share this precious gift with and how you would do it.

Resources on sharing the gospel:

- Share the Gospel! - <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/live-it-post/share-the-gospel/>
- The Four - <https://www.cru.org/sg/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/thefour.html>

Closing

Let's share this gift to those who need it this season.

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for RiverLifers to always be thankful for this precious gift and to hold it tightly.
- Pray for our brothers and sisters who have backslid to return to Christ.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church that as we have concluded the 21 days of prayer and fasting, we will be determined to live in a new normal – one that follows after the example of Christ.

3. World

- Pray for the situation Iceland where a volcanic eruption is affecting the nation.
- Continue to pray for the conflict in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas - for both nations to reach a ceasefire resolution.
- Pray for the situation in China where Beijing hospitals have a sudden surge in respiratory illnesses among children.
- Pray for the COVID-19 surge in Singapore.
- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.
- Continue to pray for the civil unrest in Myanmar.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. New Year's Eve Services.

- English Adult New Year's Eve Service
- 9am | Worship Centre (Level 3)
- Let's all gather on the morning of 31 Dec in our 'Make Us One' t-shirts!

2. Bilingual Watchnight Service

- From 9pm | Victory Chapel (Level 1)
- Combined with Chinese Ministry and conducted in English & Mandarin
 - Session 1: 9pm to 12.30am
 - Supper: 12.30am to 1.30am
 - Session 2: 1.30am to 6am
- We will come together as a spiritual family to enter the new year in the Lord's presence with worship and prayer. Feel free to bring your sleeping bags for resting!

3. Weekly Prayer Gatherings

As the year comes to an end, our prayer gatherings will pause for a few weeks as we spend time with the Lord and our loved ones.

- RiverLife Prayer Room on Tuesday
 - *No gathering on 26 Dec 2023 & 2 Jan 2024*
- Revive Nights on Wednesday
 - *No gathering on 27 Dec 2023 & 3 Jan 2024*

4. The RiverLife Welcome Lunch

- Sun, 21 Jan 2024 | 11.30am-1pm
- Faith Chapel (Level 2)
- Relationships matter to us because church is family. If you are new to RiverLife, come join us for this Welcome Lunch so that we can get to know one another better. You'll get to meet fellow RiverLifers as well as our staff team members too. This session is for those who have not attended a Welcome Lunch previously. Due to capacity constraints, each guest may be accompanied by up to two family members or friends (including their host).
- RSVP online: rlc.sg/welcomelunch

CALENDAR

1. YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s).

- First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1). The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.

2. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- RiverLife Prayer Room. Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel.
- RiverLife Revive Nights. Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel (Livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights).

MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. The 9M Ministry.

This ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.

Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m

Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve

2. Missions Microsite.

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.

3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar>

4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

RESOURCES

1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.

3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)

Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

2. RiverLife Podcast.

The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search 'The RiverLife Podcast' on Spotify.

3. Spiritual Growth Resources.

We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

4. Testimony.

If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: <https://rlc.sg/wachannelinvite>

Telegram Channel: t.me/RiverLifeChurch

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

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