



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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How would you like to make a \$350,000 return on a \$20 investment? That's not bad in an economy where current interest rates are below 2%. Kate McClure ran out of gas on Interstate 95 in Philadelphia. To make matters worse, she had no money in her purse. Johnny Bobbitt, Jr., a homeless veteran, saw the stranded car and approached Kate, who had stepped outside. Bobbitt approached her and told her to get back in the car and lock the doors while he walked a few blocks and bought her gas with his last \$20.

The rest is history. Bobbitt returned with gas, and McClure looked for a tangible way to say thanks and help this Good Samaritan. (The "Good Samaritan" story Jesus told in Luke 10:25-38 describes a Samaritan who found a man after he had been beaten by robbers and left for dead along the roadside. The Samaritan placed the wounded stranger on his donkey, took him to an inn, left money with the innkeeper to care for him, and promised when he returned he would pay any additional fees incurred.) We do not know if the wounded man in Jesus' Good Samaritan story ever sought a means to repay the man who had helped him. We don't know what available funds were at his disposal — perhaps he would have given some of his life's earnings or his livestock in return. But Kate McClure, with the resourcefulness of a 21st-Century Millennial, said thanks by creating a GoFundMe page for Bobbitt and raising \$350,000.

We have heard of many situations where someone was stranded and became a victim of unfortunate circumstances. McClure's situation certainly afforded a multitude of different outcomes, none of which would have been good. Bobbitt happened to be there in the right place at the right time, responding with the right attitude that precipitated the right use of his last resource to help someone else.

In the month of December, in the busyness of Christmas shopping, musicals, parties, and dinners, we are reminded of a God who, right in the nick of time, acted out of com-

passion and sent forth His Son to be the Savior of the world (Galatians 4:4). Adam Clark's Commentary described the event as follows: "The time when God in His infinite wisdom counted best; in which all His counsels were filled up; and the time which His Spirit, by the prophets, had specified; and the time to which He intended the Mosaic institutions should extend."

Albert Barnes wrote in his commentary Christ's arrival was, "The full time appointed by the Father; the completion (filling up) of the designated period for the coming of the Messiah. . . ."

Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown refer to this moment in their commentary as, "The end of all preparation, the beginning of all fulfillment, the maturity of man's spiritual need. . . ." When the time was right and mankind was in need of rescue, God sent forth His Son.

Johnny Bobbitt, Jr. was homeless and destitute when he rescued Kate. After giving all he had, he needed resources of his own to get back on foot. When God rescued mankind and purchased our redemption, He gave the only Son He had. But He is the Creator of the Universe and has no financial needs. He makes His home in a city, where the streets are paved with gold (Revelation 21:21).

How can we express our thanks for God's Gift? There's no need to establish a GoFundMe Page for Him. Our only reasonable expression of gratitude is to present our bodies to Him as living sacrifices as Paul said in Romans 12:1.

What does this mean? What does it look like for us today? For those on the Interstate of Life whose spiritual tanks are empty and find it challenging to experience the true spirit of Christmas this year, take courage! Remember that just as He came in the nick of time to provide hope for a dying world, He is able to provide hope for you today through His Holy Spirit!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards

“The Gift That No One Wanted”

Every Christmas, some gifts don't make it from the list to the Christmas tree. This may be due to budgetary constraints, items out of stock, parents' better judgment, a bad report to Santa from an Elf on the Shelf, or the requester's placement on the infamous Naughty List. The requester's measure of need (or the lack thereof) for the items requested is often the deciding factor for such purchasing decisions.

A wise gift-giver attempts to mitigate the disappointment which inevitably accompanies a particular gift's omission by replacing it with the ecstasy — or would you call it distraction? — of other gifts (often cheaper, sometimes better, always more necessary) which are sure to please. With the high cost of living, it simply isn't possible to do it any other way. *They'll understand*, we tell ourselves. True, a little disappointment never hurt anyone; but nothing turns the tables of yuletide cheer or flips the Christmas spirit on its head more than a requester who rejects the very gift he or she put on the list.

A Wish Almost Granted

After a devastating earthquake on November 12 which left more than 530 people dead and over 8,000 injured, the Islamic Republic of Iran faced a humanitarian crisis. With a shortage of medicine, blankets, and storage containers for fresh drinking water, relief workers struggled to provide aid to the victims. A generous donor stepped up, offering to provide medical aid through the International Committee of the Red Cross. The present could not have come at a better time, and it was sure to ease burdens, warm hearts, and brighten faces.

But the citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran received none of the aid they so desperately needed. The kind hand which had offered this gift was quickly pushed aside by the nation's leaders, because the gift-giver was Israel. Apparently, Iran's leaders would rather see their own people die than accept life-saving assistance from their self-described enemy. As of November 20, relief workers were still searching for survivors.

A Gift Thrown Away

We marvel at the depths of human depravity that would choose hatred over hospitality, hostility over human dignity, bitterness over brotherly love, pride and prejudice over reconciliation. But this theme is not new. Since the beginning of time, God has graciously hand-selected gifts tailored to the needs of humanity, only to have His presents rejected. First He offered man a garden, but

man rejected the goodness of the garden for a piece of forbidden fruit. He offered man an Ark to save him from the judgment of a global flood; all but eight individuals — Noah and his family — rejected the goodness of salvation, choosing the gift of a familiar life in a familiar setting with familiar people, familiar sins, and familiar negative consequences rather than embarking on an adventure with God.

The Best Rejected Present of All

If history were a closet, it would be filled with millions of other boxes of unopened and unwanted gifts, gifts with tags that read, “From: God; To: Mankind.” The greatest gift in the closet is in a box which shows obvious wear. Its wrapping doesn't shimmer in the light like the other presents. You might say it looks a bit plainer than the rest. A closer look reveals the box is not wrapped in paper but in fabric: bed sheets, to be specific. Take a peek inside, and the four walls suddenly animate like a live storybook.

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Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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