



Lessons from Bethlehem

December 7, 2014

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Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
James 1:17 (NIV)

The Gift of Kindness

We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.

2 Corinthians 6:6 (NLT)

A story of Kindness

¹⁰ Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. “What have I done to deserve such kindness?” she asked. “I am only a foreigner.” ¹¹ “Yes, I know,” Boaz replied. “But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. ¹² May the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.”

Ruth 2:10-12 (NLT)

Two laws:

- The law of redemption
- The law of Levirate marriage

1. You can _____ a person’s story with a simple act of _____.
 - Hessed: Above and beyond kindness
2. At times you’ll be _____ by _____ that can complicate your story.
3. If you’ll _____ his act of _____, God can write a better _____ to your story.

¹ At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. ⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.
Luke 2:1-8 (NLT)

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Receive Jesus as my Savior so he can write a better ending to my story.
- Repent of shortcuts that I have taken and ask God to deliver me from temptation.
- Go above and beyond basic kindness by giving gifts of loving kindness throughout the holiday season.
- Meditate on and/or memorize 2 Corinthians 6:6