

# Blessed

## *A Mini Collection Of Christmas Messages*

*From [www.risingonwings.org](http://www.risingonwings.org)*

*By*

*Minoli Hathhotuwa*

**Copyright © 2012 by Minoli Haththotuwa**

***“BLESSED”***

*By Minoli Haththotuwa*

**Paperback books by this author are:**

*More Than A Conqueror*

*Just Say The Word*

*Against All Odds*

**&**

*Open The Eyes Of My Heart*

*(All available from [www.risingonwings.org](http://www.risingonwings.org))*

**All rights reserved solely by the author. The author guarantees all contents are original and do not infringe upon the legal rights of any other person or work. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the author.**

**Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from the New King James Version, Copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc., Columbia.**

**[www.risingonwings.org](http://www.risingonwings.org)**

# Introduction

This e-book is a small collection of Bible based Christmas messages, and were originally written as weekly 'eWords' for the inspirational website [www.risingonwings.org](http://www.risingonwings.org). Each chapter consists of a passage of Scripture and its application, and the first four are a series. It would make a good gift to email your friends and loved ones, as reading this book will stir and strengthen your faith to believe for miracles for yourself and those around you. "Blessed" is dedicated to the One who has begun to show me what it means to walk in God's blessing and favor, the very precious and beautiful Holy Spirit, my Lord and dearest Friend. Every message is His gift to you. May the messages in this collection burn into your heart and give you faith to fly!

*Minoli*

# **CONTENTS**

<b>Chapter One</b>	<b>Blessed!</b>
<b>Chapter Two</b>	<b>You Have Found Favor</b>
<b>Chapter Three</b>	<b>Holy Spirit Come Upon Me</b>
<b>Chapter Four</b>	<b>With God Nothing Is Impossible</b>
<b>Chapter Five</b>	<b>Treasure For The King</b>

# CHAPTER ONE

## Blessed! (Luke 1:26-28)

*“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”*”

The book of Luke begins with the story of Zecharias and Elizabeth who were blessed with a baby in the latter stages of their lives after a visit from the angel Gabriel. In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, Gabriel appeared to the young teenage girl, Mary with a message that changed her life. This passage of Scripture is a familiar one to most of us, and it is frequently studied during this season of the year. Today’s message is from the heart of a Father who wants you to know (or remember) that you are extremely blessed and highly favored. He loves you and wants to pour His presence into your life. He says to you today *“Blessed are you among men. Blessed are you among women”*. Hallelujah! God wants His kids to enjoy and live in His blessing, and today we look at some keys to living in the blessing of God.

- 1) **“A virgin betrothed to Joseph”**. In Bible times, people were always identified by their tribe, family lineage or father’s calling. Exceptionally, we see in this instance that Mary was referred to simply as a “virgin” and not identified by her family name or tribe. This was the traditional word used for any unmarried young girl at the time, but it denotes purity and consecration. Mary was a teenage girl whose heart belonged to God. This is what our Father seeks from us more than anything else. He looks to see if we have given ourselves wholly to Him. He seeks a bride who keeps herself for Him and Him alone and does not flirt with the ways (and the spirits) of the world. Once we experience the forgiveness of sins and receive Jesus as Lord, the past is truly wiped away and forgotten. God removes our

transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12) and calls us to live in His love and holiness. However, too many believers today receive God's grace and forgiveness, but compromise on the love and holiness, and still expect His blessing to follow them. This Christmas season, let us open our hearts to the searchlight of the Holy Spirit, as we allow Him to reveal to us areas that need to be brought under the Lordship of our King. Jesus the Bridegroom is looking for a virgin Bride, and He wants His Bride to walk in His blessing!

- 2) **Rejoice in the knowledge that you are favored.** Many believers live their whole lives never knowing how loved and cherished they are by our heavenly Father. Many people even live in the anticipation of punishment, or with a feeling that God is displeased or angry with them, because they may not have experienced the forgiving love of Daddy God through the blood of Jesus. His love is for us all, and His favor is His delight in those who live for Him. It is the free access we have to His presence. Today, the Holy Spirit would have you know that you are fully loved, fully forgiven, and fully accepted. Rejoice - the Father's favor is upon you and you can come to Him any time!
  
- 3) **The Lord is with you.** Mary was an innocent young girl going about her normal chores and living her life in the town of Nazareth. An angel was probably the last person she expected to see that day as she (maybe!) hummed a little tune and mended her clothes in her room. Although she loved the Lord and lived a prayerful life, maybe she never had the revelation of His real presence with her. Now suddenly there was an angel standing in front of her, proof that Heaven was very much aware of her and involved in her life. Today the Father wants us to know that He is surely with us, and that He has commissioned angels to help and protect each of us as we live each day on planet earth. You may have been feeling alone and isolated from the crowd, but Abba is reminding you that He never left you for a moment. He promised He would be with you always, and He has kept His word! He is holding you in His hands. He is always by your side. Ask Him today for divine revelation and supernatural vision, as you welcome the presence of angels in your home and in your life. Ask Him for that tangible

evidence of his presence with you. God is with you, and heaven is in your home!

**4) Know and believe that you are blessed.** When the angel Gabriel said to Mary that she was blessed among women, she probably looked around to see who the angel was speaking to! Walking in the blessing of God begins with our mindset, and many people do not see much of Heaven's blessing in their lives because they just don't believe they are blessed or think of themselves as "blessed". When Gabriel told Mary she was blessed, Mary believed and received these words. She opened her heart and mind to everything Abba wanted for her and she received it all! Today the Holy Spirit would have you know that you are extremely blessed! Jesus gave His life to set you free. Satan wants to drag you down, but Jesus came to give you a life that is abundantly filled with all His awesomeness (John 10:10). His blood has opened the way to every good and perfect gift the Father wants you to have. All the goodness of heaven is yours if you will believe and receive! This is Truth: *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"* (Romans 8:32). Daddy wants to bless you and has blessed you with everything you could ever need (Ephesians 1:3). It is time to look up (and not down at your circumstances) and reach for it!

**So rejoice highly favored one, the Lord is with you and He will never leave you nor forsake you. Live in the daily expectation of His favor, His blessing, His love upon your life. It is what He wants to pour out upon you in abundance, because you are His very precious and chosen child. I pray this day that you will begin to see just how much Abba loves you and has for you, and that you will begin to walk into the fulfillment of all the Kingdom promises which are yours in Jesus. You are blessed. You are blessed. You are blessed, in Jesus' mighty name, Amen!**

# CHAPTER TWO

## You Have Found Favor

### (Luke 1:29-31)

*“But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.” (NIV)*

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and called her “blessed” and “highly favored”, she was taken aback and “troubled”. She did not expect to be addressed this way (or to meet an angel in her home!), and was confused because she was taken by surprise. As with most young girls of her culture and time, Mary had no real status or identity of her own. She probably saw herself through the eyes of her society, where Girls did not have the opportunity of a formal education or a voice in the community. She may not have had much of a sense of self worth so she was therefore probably shocked that this beautiful divine being from Heaven was visiting Earth simply to talk to her. As she wondered if the angel had got the wrong house or the wrong town, he addressed her by name, saying *“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”* Heaven never makes mistakes, hallelujah!

**Today, the heart of the Father is crying out towards the many sons and daughters who have never discovered their real identity and who they are in Him.** God has declared many wonderful Truths in His Word about us, his chosen children, but most of the time, we do not really hear what He says because we see ourselves through the eyes of our past, our shortcomings and challenges, or through the eyes of people in our lives who are used by Satan to keep us down. God says “you are blessed, you are My own, my favor is upon you” and we look around us thinking *“who me?”*! He says “you are My righteousness in Jesus, and the apple of My eye” and we say *“it can’t be!”* Like Mary, we are “troubled” when we hear the mighty things our Father says about us, because it sounds so

alien to our mindset, so different to what we have believed. Today the blessed Holy Spirit wants to free us from that old mentality, and to renew our minds in Him so that we see ourselves through Abba's eyes and for all the goodness He has placed in us His kids. We are precious sons and daughters of the King of kings!

**Gabriel told Mary not to fear because as long as she continued to be afraid, she would never see how favored and loved she was.** 1 John 4:18 says *“There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.”* When people believe that God is displeased with them and live in fear of His discipline, they will never see that they are, in fact, living in His favor, and recipients of radical blessing and amazing love! If you are a child of God and living for Him, Papa says to you that He is not displeased or disappointed with you. He sees your heart and how you seek to walk His way. There is no need to fear His punishment because you have already been forgiven because of the precious and powerful blood of Jesus, hallelujah! You are the righteousness of God in Christ. You are His beloved son and His precious daughter, and He is well pleased with you.

Gabriel went on to tell Mary that she would **“conceive”** and **“bring forth”** a Son and call Him “Jesus”. In the same way, **God wants you to know that His hand is upon you and He has great plans for your life which are soon to come to fruition.** There is much He wants to birth through you into the earth. There are revelations, prophetic words, dreams and visions, and new ministries that have been released in seed form within the womb of your spirit. This happens when someone prays over you for the impartation of a gift or a particular anointing, or when a prophetic Word is spoken or prayed over your life. It is “conceived” in your spirit. Then you “bring it forth” when you 1) have faith and believe it, 2) call it forth through worship, prayer and declaration, 3) nurture that seed through feeding on the Word, and 4) submit yourself to the power of the mighty Holy Spirit, yielding to His hand and His breath moving in and through you to bring that conception to a full term birth. There are new ministries waiting to be born; callings and giftings stirring in spiritual wombs and needing to be released. This is your time, dear friend, this is your season! The time taken for that seed to take shape and be birthed into the world depends on how much you co-operate with the Holy Spirit, and how much you believe in what God is doing in your life. He has big dreams for you and He is calling you to jump on board!

The angel told Mary that the child was to be called “Jesus”, which is taken from the name “Joshua” or “Yehoshua” and means “the Lord is salvation”, “God saves”, or “God save us”. **Today, the Lord is reminding us to be the expression of His love here on the earth and to bring His salvation to those around us.** This Christmas season, think of the hundreds of people you interact with or bump into each week who have not yet bowed their knee to the One who saves. We serve a Lord who wants to save, deliver and heal, and who passionately loves His creation. (1Timothy 2:3 & 4: *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires **all** men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”*.) Be the expression of His heart to those you meet. Be the smile, the eyes, the love of Jesus; be a burning light in a dark and dreary world because the One who saves is living in you and wants to reach those hurting souls.

**Finally, let me remind you that the Father knows your name!** You may be going through a season in your life where you feel like Abba has forgotten you, but you are always in His heart. Your name is written upon the palm of His hand. He knows and remembers everything about you, and loves you unconditionally. His favor and love are upon you, and He has only good things in store for you. Decide today to step into your new season of receiving Abba’s love and favor, and walking in it. Know that you are His valued treasure and His cherished and chosen child. There is no more condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1) so do not fear dear one, you have found favor with God. Forget the former things and do not dwell on the past for you will conceive in your spirit and bring forth something new and beautiful which will bring great honor and glory to the name of the One who saves. You are appointed and anointed, a vessel for His light to shine through for all the world to see! May you live in His favor. May you experience all the glorious blessings God has for you this season, in Jesus’ mighty name, Amen!

## **CHAPTER THREE**

# **“Holy Spirit Come Upon Me!”**

## **(Luke 1:32-35)**

*“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you. Therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

When young Mary encountered the angel Gabriel, she was shocked and apprehensive, but the angel told her not to be afraid and explained that she was to give birth to Jesus. She was told that this baby was the Son of God Himself who would rule and reign forever in Heaven and in the kingdoms of the earth (“the throne of His father David”). Mary probably never realized at that moment what an honor this was, and that she was a big part of God’s eternal plan which would affect lives forever. Jesus rules over the house of Jacob (the Church) and over all the universe and every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess His Lordship (Romans 14:11) because from everlasting to everlasting He is Lord! (Psalm 90:2).

This message is from the heart of a Father who wants His kids to receive the fullness of His Spirit upon their lives and to see the radical victories He wants to give us. You may be on the brink of something new and daunting, perhaps a new job opportunity, or a business or ministry launch. Maybe you are stepping into a new season in your life, or have a mammoth project upon your hands. Even if you are faced with some other challenging situation which seems too big to overcome, this message is for you!

When Mary was told that she would soon give birth to the baby Jesus, she was unable to absorb the news for a while. All the glorious details about His divinity and the eternal nature of this message from God probably went right over her

because her mind was focused on a limitation. She was unable to see the greatness in what the angel was saying to her because her mind had stopped at *“How can this be?”*

**Today, God is asking us to take our eyes off our own finite circumstances and abilities.** He is calling us to set our eyes on Him. There is so much He has planned for you and me which would come to pass if we would but look beyond the finity of who we are and what we can do. Daddy God wants to break us out of the boxes which the norms of the world limit us to. Mary (as most ‘normal’ people would) could not imagine that a child could begin to live in her womb when she was still a virgin. We do the same thing! When God gives us a mission or a vision, we tend to look at our bank balance, qualifications, state of health, available time, etc, and ask *“How can this be?”* The Holy Spirit is reminding us today that we have been called to walk by faith and not by sight (1 Corinthians 5:7). He is reminding us that His Word is always true, and if we feed on His Word and keep our eyes on Him (and not on our circumstances), there is no limit to what He will do in and through our lives, hallelujah. He is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than you could ever ask or imagine and this is what has already been released to you! (Ephesians 3:20).

**The Holy Spirit wants to overshadow you and bring to birth those things of God which are stirring inside you.** Friend, we have the omnipotent and awesome third person of the Trinity with us. He is longing to reveal Himself to you, and wants so much to be more involved in your life, work, and ministry. When Mary said *“How can this be?”* the angel said to her *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you.”* How do we reach those high heights and achieve those goals our Daddy has given us? How do we step forward in faith knowing that we are embarking on a humanly impossible task? How can we even remain true to Jesus and forgive, or love the unlovable in a difficult or painful situation? Only by yielding completely to the Almighty Holy Spirit. Let the Holy Spirit come upon you dear friend. Let the power of the Highest overshadow you. Being overshadowed means being covered, hidden, submerged by Him. It means less of “me” and more of His presence. It means I lay down my will and my plan, and surrender to His, as I say *“Blessed Holy Spirit, please come and take over all of my life. I yield to you. Saturate my body, spirit*

*and soul. Take me further and deeper into the will of God. I need You!”* Then get ready for radical revelation and total transformation, hallelujah!

Mary had probably never even dreamed that she would be the object of Heaven’s attention in this way, and a part of God’s plan for all mankind but she had been chosen from before the dawning of time. In the same way, **Daddy God has always known you and loved you and had beautiful plans in His heart for you.** You will begin to see these manifested in your life as you yield to the blessed Holy Spirit and allow His love to overshadow you.

Mary was told: *“That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”* Even as the Spirit overshadowed Mary and she conceived and brought forth the Son of God, **know that the good work the Holy Spirit births from within you is God’s.** He will nurture and nourish it, and bring it forth to fulfillment in His perfect time because it is His baby, His handiwork. Things may seem difficult right now, but be encouraged that *“He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”* (Philippians 1:6). He makes all things beautiful in His time! (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Precious child of Yahweh, there are great things God has ordained for you, and there is no limit to the mighty things that you can see happen in and through your life if you take your eyes off the earthly limitations and allow the blessed Holy Spirit to come upon you and saturate you with His infinite power. You are heading for new seasons of power, and exciting adventures with Jesus! **May the power of the Holy Spirit come upon you, and the presence of the Highest overshadow you today in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!**

# **CHAPTER FOUR**

## **With God Nothing Is Impossible!**

### **(Luke 1:36-38)**

*“Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.”*

The angel Gabriel explained to Mary that Jesus would be conceived in her womb when the Holy Spirit came upon her. He went on to tell her about how God’s supernatural power was already working in the life of Elizabeth, who was expecting a baby although she was beyond the natural childbearing age. The angel’s parting comment was *“With God nothing will be impossible”!* Mary believed this message from Heaven, and saw the ‘impossible’ manifested in her life, through the birth and life of Jesus the Savior of all mankind.

Today’s message contains three simple, practical and possible keys to living in the dimension of the miraculous which we can take from the life of Mary.

- 1) **Inspiration from people who have had the same miracle you are praying for.** The angel told Mary about Elizabeth’s miracle because he wanted her to see that this miracle was possible with God. The family and community knew that Elizabeth had never had a child and even referred to her as “barren”. She was also described as being *“well advanced in years”* by Luke (Luke 1:7), and of an *“old age”* by the angel. The fact that she was now expecting a child was nothing but a miracle and because all things are possible with God. Mary visited Elizabeth almost immediately (Luke 1:39) and spent three months with her (Luke 1:56), as she began to believe and

know that her own miracle was stirring and growing inside her womb. Dear friend, seek the testimonies and fellowship of people who have had victory in the areas in which you seek a miracle. Your faith will be stirred and strengthened to enable you to believe (or keep believing) for what you are waiting for, and (with time) you will also experience a transfer of the same anointing because the blessing can be contagious! I know of many people who have received healing after hearing a testimony (or testimonies) of the particular kind of healing they were seeking. Revelations 19:10 says that *“the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy”*; when we share testimonies of what Jesus has done in our lives, we are speaking forth the good thing that happened, and it is (in effect) a prophecy of the same and more to come, as we release the potential for that miracle to be repeated over again. In short, spend time with friends who have had breakthrough, and feed yourself with teachings, testimonies, and accounts of victory, and you will be sharing your own before too long! *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever”*, hallelujah! (Hebrews 13:8).

- 2) **An attitude of submission to the will of God.** Obedience is not a popular word today, but when Mary heard the message from Heaven she received it, saying, “I am Yours; I yield to Your Word.” (*“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your Word.”*) Her heart submitted and purposed to obey. There are multiple accounts in the Word of God about people who saw the manifestation of their miracle when they took steps of obedience and responded to the Word even when it did not make much sense to them. An example is Naaman the warrior (2 Kings 5:1-14) who dipped himself seven times in the Jordan River according to the word of the prophet of God and received healing from leprosy. In today’s context, I have heard testimonies from people who experienced a breakthrough in what they had been praying and waiting for when they paid their overdue tithes, or forgave a parent, or walked away from an un-Godly relationship in response to the Holy Spirit’s voice. Precious child of God, the Lord Jesus died to bring us not only into salvation and relationship with God, but also to enjoy the realm of the miraculous, and walk in the abundance of life He came to give. Every blessing and miracle we receive is a free gift of grace from our loving Father and nothing we can earn or work for. However, we can hinder the limitless

possibilities of life in the Spirit when we ignore His promptings and fail to respond in obedience to the Word of the Lord upon our lives. Maybe you have been waiting for a miracle in your life and have been feeling discouraged that things have not still happened as you expected. As we approach the end of a year, it may be a good time to ask the Holy Spirit to help us to get rid of any area of disobedience that may be a hindrance to the miraculous moving of God in us and for us. “Oh Lord, let it be to me according to Your Word”. Your miracle is on its way!

- 3) **Never doubt that “with God nothing is impossible”.** These were the angel’s last words and the thought Gabriel wanted to leave her with as he departed. To receive a miracle, we need to believe in the omnipotence of Jehovah and His desire to constantly invade this earthly realm with the power of His Spirit. There may be people who do not ask God to step into their situation with a miracle because they are not sure that He wants to or that He can; or they may be believing that the sickness or other difficult situation they have encountered is His will for them. On the other hand, many of us may pray for a miracle but do things to try and speed up its manifestation or try to make it happen in our own strength and understanding (as Abraham and Sarah did when Abraham fathered Ishmael while they were waiting for their miracle baby.(Genesis Chapter 16). Abba reminds us today that He is omnipotent GOD and He **wants** to save, heal, deliver and bless. If we believe this, we open ourselves to all the awesome possibilities that Jesus died to bring to us, because with God nothing is impossible!

**Dear friend, whatever you have been praying for, I join my faith with yours today and ask God for your miracle in the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus. Look up and know that God wants to bless, heal and prosper you because He is your sun and shield, and will withhold no good thing from His kids. (Psalm 84:11). May it be to you according to His Word, because with God nothing is impossible!**

# **CHAPTER FIVE**

## **Treasure For The King**

### **(Matthew 2:7-12)**

*“Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me that I may come and worship Him also.”*

*When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother; and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.” (NKJV)*

As we approach another Christmas, receive this message as Papa’s Christmas gift to you!

In the beginning of this chapter in Matthew, we are given an account of how wise men (who may have been astrologers from Persia or southern Arabia) followed a star and came looking for the “King of the Jews”. Even Gentile leaders acknowledged Jesus as the “King of the Jews” and sought to worship Him, but when King Herod found out about the birth of the baby King, he was ‘disturbed’. He called the Jewish priests and teachers to him, and was even more unhappy when he heard that this was all a fulfillment of ancient prophecies. In order to calculate the age of the baby, he secretly spoke to the visiting men and asked them for further details.

King Herod (Herod the Great, 37 BC-4 BC) was a man of blood, who ruthlessly murdered his wife, his three sons, and many others, as well as the babies in Bethlehem! Although he told the wise men to come back to him once they had

found the baby King, his only intention was to destroy the Child. If the wise men had done as he requested, he would have sent soldiers against the baby Jesus and His family without a second thought. But God is always streets ahead of every weapon formed against us! He warned the wise men in a dream, and they took another route back home.

Friend, the Lord is giving us a key here for walking in the joy of the Lord in the coming year. When the Magi finally came to the place the baby Jesus was, we are told that they were overjoyed!

- 1) They bowed down and worshipped Him.
- 2) They opened their treasures and presented them to Him.

Each of the gifts has a special significance, but let us focus on the fact that they gave Jesus what was precious. They gave Him their treasures. They came a long way in search of Jesus, but when they came to the house, it was not enough to have found Him. They fell on their knees and worshipped Him wholeheartedly, giving Him what was truly valuable to them! They surrendered their lives to Him, and acknowledged Jesus as Lord. They submitted everything to Him because they knew they had encountered the King of kings.

**One of the keys to walking in joy is that we purpose to bow down and submit daily to the Lordship of Jesus over our lives** and to give time to worship at His feet and experience His presence and sweet anointing. In the presence of the Lord there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11) and the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:9). It is a joy to find yourself in the presence of Jesus. It feels so right to surrender everything and worship at His feet. To know His Lordship and rule in my life gives me such a sense of security and of peace. He fills my heart with His joy!

**When the wise men gave Jesus what was precious to them, it pleased the heart of God**, not because God seeks our money or valuables, but because He seeks to have our hearts. Matthew 6:21 says *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* When we offer up our treasures to Jesus, that is where our heart will be – in Him and with Him! He becomes the top priority, and the most precious treasure! When we put Him first, and seek Him and His Kingdom and His

righteousness, we can be sure that God will surely add to us everything we could ever need (Matthew 6:33). Whatever issue you may be facing, you will never have to worry about tomorrow if you make Jesus your top priority. His blessing and provision is upon your life!

**Friend, as we move towards the end of another year, God is calling us to a time of re-dedication and re-consecration.** He seeks our first fruits, our first love, our faithful commitment. Of course He loves you and always will, but it is a good time to ask yourself where you stand before the Lord and whether you have given Him the first place in your life and lived to please His heart. If you were one of the wise men, would you be able to lay your greatest treasures at His feet in worship?

The enemy tried to destroy the baby Jesus, and the plans God had for mankind through His life, and the devil may have tried to do the same thing in your life, to destroy the hopes and plans that God gave you at the beginning of this year. His mission is to steal, kill and destroy and he tried to knock you down, but you are still standing and moving ahead! He tried to stop God birthing new things through you, but you are still loving and serving the King. When God is for you, no one can succeed against you (Romans 8:31). In the same way the Lord warned the wise men in their dream, God's mighty hand has been upon you through this year, protecting you, healing you, providing for you, and directing you, even when you were not aware of His presence. He has been constantly intervening in your life! As Herod lied to the wise men, pretending that he wanted to worship the baby King, the enemy constantly lies to people, deceiving them into believing they are sick, weak, sad or bound. I pray today that the blessed Holy Spirit will give you the discernment to see what is of God and what is of the enemy, and to say 'no' to His lies daily and walk in victory. There is a calling on your life. There is much power in the Spirit and in the Word for you.

God loves you and wants to do great things in your life as you yield to His purposes, and surrender to His Spirit. As you trust Him, and lay all your hopes and dreams at His feet, you will see the future take shape before you, as He begins to lead you step by step into an awesome tomorrow. He will make a much better job of managing your life than you ever could!

**May this Advent season be filled with the peace and the presence of the King of kings. May you worship Him and feel all the glory and goodness of His sweetness filling your life. May the joy of Jesus flow through everything you say and do. Your Father has plans for you!**

# References

Gill's Exposition Of The Entire Bible – [www.gill.biblecommentator.com](http://www.gill.biblecommentator.com)

[www.bible-history.com/smiths/G/Gennesaret/](http://www.bible-history.com/smiths/G/Gennesaret/)

[www.jewishencyclopedia.com](http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com)

Matthew Henry's Commentary, Edited by Rev. Leslie F. Church, PhD, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

[www.net.bible.org.dictionary](http://www.net.bible.org.dictionary)

The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

Wikipedia.org

**The author can be contacted through the website**

**[www.risingonwings.org](http://www.risingonwings.org)**