



December 16

Daily Christmas!

(Continuation from Dec 15)

Reading: Luke 1:46-55

***"God satisfies the hungry with good things
and sends away the rich empty-handed" (Lk 1:53)***

Let us continue to meditate how we can make Christmas celebrations meaningful—

● *Remember the poor!*

Christmas cards depicting the manger scene are the most popular. It would have been easier than the easiest for the Father God to arrange a comfortable home for His Son to be born. But God wanted to show the world from the very first chapter of Christ's life that He was the God of the poor and have-nots. When the imprisoned John the Baptist was confused about the Messiahship of Jesus, the surest identification Jesus showed John's disciples was, "The poor have the Gospel preached to them!" (Mt 11:2-5).

A Christmas celebration which keeps the poor out or on the orbit is meaningless before God. There are millions in India who are homeless, foodless and clotheless. What we do to them is counted as being done to Jesus (Mt 25:34-40). When the rich man in hell was tortured by the most unpleasant surprise ever, Abraham's explanation from Heaven was, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented" (Lk 16:25). When Zacchaeus volunteered to give away half of his wealth to the poor, Jesus assured him salvation and sonship (Lk 19:8,9).

Jesus chose not only a humble place but also a poor family for His birth. His mother, not being able to bring even a lamb, brought just a pair of pigeons to offer as sacrifice! (Lk 2:23,24; Lev 12:2,8). Finally she let her son Himself to be sacrificed as a lamb! What shall we sacrifice this Season to bring smile to the poor? Did not Jesus become poor to make us rich? (2 Cor 8:9).

Dutifully throwing a few extra slices of bread to beggars on Christmas day or visiting prisoners and invalids with sweets during the Season is not enough. Can we leave the poor unfed and the prisoners unvisited for the next eleven months? Let the spirit of Christmas continue. Let us allot a reasonable amount of money for the poor. Poor widows, the disabled, orphans and those who live on the streets are also dear to God.

Wiping their tears will make our Lord happy. The heartcry of Dr. Bob Pierce, the Founder of World Vision, is, "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God!" May this be ours too!

*Those who give generously and regularly to the poor
will enjoy a daily Christmas!*
