

DECEMBER 18

“JESUS DOES NOT GIVE YOU A GIFT. HE IS YOUR GIFT.”

READ

Luke 2:8-14, John 14:27

When the angel choir sang to the shepherds that night, their song was about the indescribable gift, the person who would become your peace and mine. In Israel, “Shalom!” is a common greeting. Our Savior’s name is Prince of Shalom. Shalom means peace. It also means complete. If there was an intruder in your home, you would feel unsafe until he was gone. You would be incomplete in that moment — something is missing, someone has invaded your life. Six thousand years ago an intruder — sin — entered God’s creation. From then until now, there is no peace until you kneel at the feet of Jesus, ask Him to save you, and He casts the intruder out of your life. At that moment you experience a peace, a completeness, a fullness that you can never know outside of Jesus. Shalom also means payment. There is no peace until there is a payment. You came into this world in debt. This debt was so deep that you could never pay with any amount of money or any degree of works. But God who is rich in mercy and love said, “I’ll make payment.” Jesus said, “I’ll become the payment.” God sent peace on earth through His Son. God healed the sick and raised the dead. God was raised up on a cross, put in a tomb, and walked out on the third day. He has become our payment. Our Shalom.

PRAY

I praise You, Lord, that You have made peace through the blood of Your cross. You are my Prince of Peace, and I am complete in You.

From December 17, 2006