

Chapter 13 – The King Who Had It All Don't Forget to Wish For the Best

A few years ago, over a recent Thanksgiving holiday Pastor Bob did his version of Black Friday shopping. He slept in, had breakfast, took a shower, and then met up with wife Kristi, and daughters, Amy and Stephanie. They had left the house before 6:30 a.m. Pastor Bob was rested, fresh, and full of energy. After facing the frantic shoppers all morning, Kristi, Amy, and Stephanie . . . well, they didn't look so good.

At one point of the mall madness, Pastor Bob was leaving Sears and saw it. Right there in front of him. A Sears *Wish Book*. He hadn't seen one in years and it brought back some memories.

The first Sears *Wish Book* was printed in 1933. (We didn't remember that we Googled it.) Over time it had diminished in size and was even discontinued at one point. It was revived in 2007, but the one Pastor Bob saw was nothing in size compared to the books he remembered from his youth. Children today don't really need one. They have the Internet and their high-tech toys to cruise the information highway to identify their holiday "wants." But "back in the day" the Sears *Wish Book* helped us answer the seasonal question: "If you could have anything for Christmas, what would you ask for?"

Every year Pastor Bob would look through the catalog (Pastor Josh is too young) and either dog-ear a page or circle his choices in pen. He didn't want Santa to miss his requests.

You may not need the Sears *Wish Book* today, but you have some wishes too, don't you? This Christmas how would you answer the question, "If you could have one thing in the world, what would it be?"

Solomon had to answer that one. He asked for wisdom. And God gave it to him. But by the end of his life, he had accumulated more and more: more gold, more horses, and more wives. He had it all and wanted more. In the midst of all these gifts he lost sight of the Giver. He turned away from God and lost it all.

However, another King gave us another path to follow. He had it all and gave it all . . . for us. This coming Christmas season, or any season for that matter, you can guard yourself from the tyranny of too much stuff by giving. Simply give so that others can simply live. That's what the King born as a baby in the manger did.

And our wish? That you visit the manger and find Him. This is God's Story for you and for your story.

Pastor Josh and Pastor Bob