



SD#95 - Counting Up to Christmas: 24 Gifts from the Gospel of Luke

Luke 1:49 (ESV)

“For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”

Reflection Questions:

- 1) How do you feel when things don't go as you planned?
- 2) What are ways you find to give gifts to others?
- 3) In what ways has prayer been a gift in your life?



Seeing Deep Ministries

Extended Devotion:

During this time of year, giving gifts fills our minds and preoccupies our days. The hustle and bustle of the season whisk away time as we scramble to find that “perfect gift” for a friend or family member. The things on our To-Do lists can either fill our cups with chaos or calm. Does that perfect gift truly exist? Today, I want to share with you the Perfect gift that truly does exist! It exists in Jesus.

When we dwell in the presence of Jesus, we find True Peace that surpasses any other gift we could hope to receive. In His presence, there is rest and fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). In the first chapter of Luke, we find Mary’s beautiful prayer of awe and thanksgiving for the Blessing she carries. You see, the more we offer intentional words of praise and thanksgiving for our abundant blessings, the more we experience peaceful lives. Prayerful lives shape peaceful lives.

In this episode, Jennifer Elwood shared some special thoughts from her new book, [*Counting Up to Christmas: 24 Gifts from the Gospel of Luke*](#). This book takes the reader through 24 precious gems of Scripture we can receive from our heavenly father. The first gift, the gift of prayer, is the most powerful gift we can treasure if we long for True Peace. In Chapter 1 of her book, Jennifer writes:

“We need prayer in a desperate way. The Christmas season is wonderful, joyous, and highly anticipated every year. It is also particularly busy. The gatherings, decorating, baking, extra school, church, and community activities, and pressure to buy all the things can distract and unnerve us if we allow them. Let’s weave words into rising peace and gratitude. From that place, we can find grace for others that would be impossible on our own.”

Ephesians 6:18 says, “*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.*” There is never a time when we cannot pray to our Heavenly Father. Bringing our daily petitions and words of thanksgiving draws us closer to Him and allows us to experience His gift of True Peace.

Application:

1. In her book, Jennifer encourages readers to write their own Magnificat similar to Mary’s in Luke chapter 1. Grab your journal and write one to the Lord now.
2. Prayer is the best remedy for a weary soul. Underneath your Magnificat, write at least ten gifts you’re grateful for today. Take a moment and praise God for them.



Takeaway:

Bringing our daily petitions and words of thanksgiving draws us closer to God and allows us to experience His gift of True Peace.

To learn more about Jennifer Elwood and her book, you can find her at:
jenniferelwood.com.

