

How Christmas Should Affect My Present?

Ebenezer Scrooge is:

"...every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart."

Scrooge

People who have been bitten by the Hum Bug need to be reminded of the

"The Ghost of Christmas Present loves the moment, loves good cheer, loves fun – everything joyful. He shows Scrooge what living really is."

Jim Carrey

"To love people, to be indispensable to someone: that is the purpose of life and the secret of happiness."

George Mason

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with Child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us." ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a Son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.

The Christmas Story reminds me that (and this has always been true) sometimes

"...for it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."

A Christmas Carol

The Christmas Story reminds me that (and this has always been true) sometimes

IF I Have Been Bitten By The Hum Bug

All year round – but especially at Christmas – I need to _____

Joseph is choosing to show more love to Mary than he believes she has shown to him.

"Treat others just as you want to be treated."

Luke 6:31 (CEV)

Grace looks like being _____ to others.

Grace looks like being _____ to others.

All year round – but especially at Christmas – I need to ask for _____

If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get His help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought.

James 1:5-6 (Msg)

All year round – but especially at Christmas – we need to take _____

Joseph is a character with minor credits. Not one word in the Bible is attributed to Joseph's name. But what he did spoke so loudly that he didn't need to say anything. He is a remarkable example of obedience.

"People say, 'It's a great thing that you're doing. I always say it would be a terrible thing if I didn't.'"

Chris Spielman

"The most important things in life are not things."