

How a Jew Learned the True Meaning of

Christmas



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*Scripture quotations are from the
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Published through Scantibodies Laboratory, Inc.
Santee, CA USA.*

How a Jew Learned the True Meaning of Christmas

Growing up as a Jew left me without an understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. Beyond all the trees, tinsel and presents, I always wondered what was the real meaning of this holiday. Finally, I came to understand the true meaning of Christmas through the story of a boy and his boat.

A young boy built a toy boat. He had gotten a 4 inch by 4 inch by 18 inch block of wood. He patiently whittled away on the block of wood with his knife until he had formed the hull and keel of his boat. He made the keel of his boat long and slender to give it stability in rough seas like an ocean going vessel. As he worked, he imagined sailing his boat on the high seas and looked forward to the times when he would take his boat down to the river for sailing adventures.



As he sanded his boat, he tested its smoothness by rubbing its hull and deck against his cheek. When he was satisfied with its shape and smoothness, he carefully painted the hull of his boat white and then, using a different color with a steady hand, he marked out the straight water line on the hull and used that color for the keel. To the deck of his boat he applied a light shellac finish in order for the natural wood to simulate a beautiful teak finish.



Then, he obtained dowels of different diameters which he cut, sanded, stained, and shellacked to become the mast and boom. He obtained metal hooks, rings and caps which he attached to the rods and hull of his boat. He searched until he found just the right cloth with a tight weave to become the sails. He cut the cloth into one large piece for the main sail and two smaller triangles to become the two forward sails. Using a needle and thick thread, he sewed the edges of his sails and attachment loops. He was happy to find just the right thin, dark, braided string for the mast stays.

Next, he built a little wooden cradle stand so his boat could stand upright in his room. With sails attached, he imagined times when his boat would be in rough seas plunging through high waves. Then he imagined his boat gliding over the small chop of a milder sea. He loved his boat and fell asleep each night with the thought of his boat on his mind. He waited anxiously for the big day when he would take his boat out for its first sail on the river near his house.

Finally, the day came when the boy carefully carried his boat to the river's bank and set the boat in the water for its maiden voyage. But, the sails quickly filled with an unexpected wind and a swift current carried the boat out of his sight. The boy spent the rest of the day along the riverbank searching for his boat. At the end of the day the boy returned to his home with a broken heart – without his boat. He had lost his boat. Time passed, but the boy never forgot about his boat. He remained so broken hearted that he could not bring himself to build another boat.



One day, the boy was walking down a sidewalk in his town when he passed by the window of a second hand store. As he was looking in the window, to his astonishment he saw his boat on display for sale. With pounding heart he rushed into the store and explained to the storekeeper that the boat in the window was his boat – that he built that boat and sailed it on the river and had lost it.

The storekeeper told the boy that the boat now belonged to him and if the boy wanted to have the boat, he would have to pay the storekeeper five dollars for it. Even though five dollars was a large amount, the boy did not argue with the storekeeper or hesitate to reconsider. The boy ran home and broke open his piggy bank and counted out five dollars of his hard-earned money. He stuffed the money into his pocket and ran back to the store. Arriving there, he laid out the money on the counter and the storekeeper delivered the boat into the boy's eager hands.



With joy the boy took the boat out of the store and there on the sidewalk the boy put his boat at eye level and said four words to his boat:

“Made”, “I made you.”

“Lost”, “I lost you.”

“Found”, “I found you.”

“Bought”, “I bought you.”

Then the boy said to his boat, “I **made** you, and I **bought** you, and now you’re **twice mine**.”

Those four words taught me the true meaning of Christmas.



Made

Just like that boy, who carefully and lovingly made his boat, the Lord Jesus Christ made each of us. We were each created by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says in John 1:3 *“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.”* The Lord Jesus Christ gave a lot of thought to us as He carefully created each one of us. The Lord Jesus Christ does not make copies – He only makes originals.

There are no two of us that are the same. Our faces are different from each other’s. It is the same in the animal kingdom. Each zebra’s stripe pattern and each leopard’s spot pattern are unique. As human beings, our fingerprints, footprints, and the color, texture and pattern of the iris in our eyes are unique to each person. The Lord carefully fashioned our faces, our hands and feet, our minds, and our personalities until He was satisfied with His work of creating us. We are each His Masterpieces.



Because He made us – our hands, our feet, our minds and our personalities, they are not our own. Just as that boy owned His boat because he made it, the Lord Jesus Christ owns each one of us because He created us. Just as the boy created his boat for a purpose, the Lord Jesus Christ created each one of us for a unique purpose and destiny. Just as the boy delighted in what his boat would do, the Lord Jesus Christ delighted in the prospect of how we would individually fulfill the wonderful life purpose and destiny He intended for us. The Lord Jesus Christ made us.

Lost



But, just like the boy who had the great tragedy of losing his boat, the Lord Jesus Christ (or God) had the great tragedy of losing us. As soon as we were launched into life each one of us left God or the Lord Jesus Christ. We went astray. We said, “good-bye” to God as we walked away from Him into a life of turning to our own way. Just as the boy lost his boat, the Lord Jesus Christ lost us.

The Bible says in Isaiah 53:6 *“All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way.”* Every one of us was lost to a life of sin as is stated in the Bible in Romans 3:23, *m* The Lord Jesus Christ lost us.

Found

But, just as the boy found his boat, the Lord Jesus Christ



came into the world and found us. The Lord Jesus Christ (as God) took off His divine clothes of glory and became a man just like you and me except that he was without sin. He took on our weaknesses as a human and was tempted like we are and suffered like we do – only He did not yield to sin.

Philippians 2:6-8 says, *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But, made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man,*

He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” He told us clearly why He (as God) came to earth in Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Bought

Just like that boy who loved his boat and without hesitation, bought it back at a high price, the



Lord Jesus Christ loved us and bought us back. The most well known verse in the Bible explains that plan – John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* But, the cost was high for the Lord Jesus Christ since He paid for us with His blood. “Redeem” means to “buy back” and I Peter 1:18-19 says *“For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (or life style) received by*

tradition from your fathers; but, with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

So, from those four words of “made, lost, found and bought” I learned the true meaning of Christmas. We were made by the Lord Jesus Christ. He lost us to sin. To get us back He came into the world on Christmas to find us. He was born to die. On the Cross He bought us with His own blood.

But, there is one difference between us and the boat. Unlike the boat, we have a will and God honors our decisions. We have to choose whether or not to allow the Lord Jesus Christ, our Creator, to become our Savior. He stands with open arms and the loving invitation found in Matthew 11:28 *“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*



For our part it takes honesty to come to him – confessing to Him that we are sinners, we have walked away from Him and made a mess of our lives of independence from God. All He needs to hear from our hearts is the simple prayer:

“Lord Jesus, save me – a lost sinner.”

He will rush in, save us from the hell we deserve, make us His child and give us life with no end. When I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior, I passed from just an understanding to an experiential knowledge of the true meaning of Christmas. This is described in John 1:11-14. *“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But, as many as received Him, to them gave He the power (or authority) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”*



That boy said to his boat, “Now you are twice mine – once because I made you and second because I bought you.” That is the meaning of being born again – being Christ’s own first because He made us; but, second by our choice of receiving Him as our Savior who bought us with His own precious blood. He offered Himself as the free gift sacrifice to pay for our sins.

We can do nothing to earn our entrance to Heaven as described in Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* This love gift of God came with a searing loss as stated in John 3:16-17 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”*

The difference between the boat and us is that we, as God's special creation, have a choice in this matter – we can receive or reject God's gift. The decision to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is urgent. The time to come to Him is now as stated in II Corinthians 6:2
“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” Will you receive Him as your Lord and Savior to be saved from your sins? Will you receive Him today? Will you receive Him just now?



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09-27-07 vs 01