

not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

### THREE REASONS FOR A LACK OF CONTENTMENT IN LIFE

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ on the other side.

*“If I had it like...then...”*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is all there is.

*“This life is all there is, so get all you can...”*

- The \_\_\_\_\_ in my life can be filled with stuff.

*“I can find true and lasting satisfaction from things”*

### Rooftop Lesson #3: It's not about \_\_\_\_\_, its all about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 2:4-11:** “So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for

all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

### Rooftop Lesson #4: It's not about us, but it is \_\_\_\_\_ us!

- He came to \_\_\_\_\_ us from our \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Timothy 1:15:** “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.”

- He came to give us \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 10:10:** “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full!”

- He came to give us \_\_\_\_\_.

**Colossians 1:3-6:** “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.”

### Rooftop Lesson #5: It's unfortunate that I have been \_\_\_\_\_ and have \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus!

- He keeps a list of our \_\_\_\_\_.

*“He's making a list and checking it twice. He's going to find out who's naughty and nice...”*

*“He knows if you've been bad or good”*

- He is Coming to Town to \_\_\_\_\_ (presents) or \_\_\_\_\_ (coal) us based on our deeds.

"You better watch out!  
You better not cry!  
You better not pout!  
I'm telling you why, Santa Claus is Coming to Town"

➤ He is \_\_\_\_\_ (all-knowing).

"He sees you when your sleeping, he knows when your awake. He knows if you've been bad or good"

➤ He is the basis for \_\_\_\_\_ behavior.

"...so be good for goodness sake"

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Saint Nicholas understood the true meaning of Christmas because he knew that Christmas is all about \_\_\_\_\_.

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** This is our final week of Small Groups until the week of January 3-8, 2010.

### QUESTIONS:

- 1). What did you learn from Sunday's message that was new to you? What did you find personally challenging?
- 2). Talk about the difference between the historical Saint Nicolas and modern portrayals of Santa Claus. How are they different? How are they the same? How did the historical Saint Nicolas evolve into Santa as we know him today?
- 3). Should Christians abandon everything to do with modern day Christmas (lights, tree's etc...), or is there another way to be faithful to Jesus?
- 4). Would you describe your life as 'content' (See Phil.4:10-14; 1 Timothy 6:6-10)? How might you acquire & model contentment?
- 5). How might you communicate the true meaning of Christmas and Santa Claus to your children this Christmas?

## What Would Santa Tell Us About Christmas?

Pastor Cory Anderson

Shadow Mountain Church / 12.13.09

### Introduction:

**Rooftop Lesson #1: It's Better to \_\_\_\_\_ than to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Acts 20:35:** "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**Matthew 6:1-4:** "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

**Rooftop Lesson #2: It's better to be \_\_\_\_\_ than to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1 Timothy 6:6-10:** "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

**Philippians 4:10-14:** "I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am