

The Gift

Amos ran all of the way home to his grandfather. What a strange night it had been in Bethlehem. The sky was so bright from the new star that had appeared that it didn't seem like night.

The streets were crowded with people as Amos approached the center of Bethlehem. He had never seen so many different people before. The Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, had ordered a census to be taken. Everyone was required by the decree to return to the town where he had been born for this registration.

"What a big world this must be! I hope I get to see it all someday," said Amos, half to himself.

Amos remembered again what the others had said. Tonight, somewhere in Bethlehem, a king was to be born! He was certain this fact had something to do with the star and the singing, too. Amos had first heard the singing as he helped the other shepherds gather in the sheep for the night. The music was so sweet and light — suitable for a king.

"If I can find where the music is coming from, then I am sure to find this king," Amos said.

But first there was his grandfather to check on, and the other shepherds had gone without him. It had been just Amos and his grandfather for a very long time. They were poor, but they were happy — until now. His grandfather was going blind. And Amos had a secret wish about this king.

"When I find this king, there will be a doctor there. A king would have a very special doctor — suitable for a king. I will bring the doctor here to grandfather and he will cure him."

Amos entered the small dwelling slowly. His grandfather was already asleep. He looked around the room.

"If I am to see this king, I must bring a gift for him," he thought.

He opened a small wooden chest. There was just a small loaf of bread there. He wrapped it carefully in a bit of cloth, and put it in his satchel. "Perhaps the cloth can serve as a blanket for the baby," he said.

Amos looked around at the humble surroundings. This king would probably be born in one of the finest houses in Bethlehem. Then he saw his flute. It had first belonged to his father. His grandfather had carved it from very fine wood many years ago when his eyes were better.

"Maybe I shall play a song for this king. I will try to make him laugh," said Amos.

Amos took his flute and placed it in the satchel. He put some straw around it too, for safekeeping. He then set out in search of this king, with the small loaf of bread, the bit of cloth and his flute. He had only gone a short distance when he heard someone call out to him.

"Boy, can you spare a little food for a begger?"

There sat a scrawny man crouched in the doorway of an old house.

"I'm very sorry," said Amos, "but I have only a little bread to give to the king."

The man looked puzzled. "What king," he said.

"The king who will be born this very night in Bethlehem. Now I must be going," replied Amos.

"If this person is really a king, then he won't mind if you give some food to an old man," the old man said.

Amos turned to go. But the old man looked so sad that Amos reached into his satchel and gave him the bread. "It wasn't a very good gift anyway," Amos thought. "Besides, I still have the blanket and my flute."

Amos hurried on. It would be morning soon, and then he'd never find the king.

"Please help me," said a woman to Amos. "It's very cold tonight. Do you have something I can wrap my baby in?"

"I have only this bit of cloth to give to the king," replied Amos.

"What king," the woman asked.

"The king who shall be born in Bethlehem tonight," Amos said.

"If this person is really a king, then he

The Bible Corner

Cindy Cottone



won't mind if you give your blanket to me," explained the woman.

Amos reached into his satchel, and gave her the cloth.

"It wasn't a very good gift anyway," he thought. "Besides, I still have my flute."

Amos reached inside his satchel and brought out his flute. He could still play a song for the king. And then the doctor would come home with him and cure his grandfather.

"Wait. Please wait. Can we borrow your flute," said two children standing on the street in front of Amos. "Our baby brother is very sick. If we could play some music for him, then he would feel better," the little girl cried.

"I'm sorry, but I need my flute to play for the king who shall be born tonight in Bethlehem," said Amos.

"If this person is really a king, then he won't mind if we borrow your flute to make our brother laugh," the children said.

It was nearly morning as Amos walked now through the streets of Bethlehem.

"Now I shall never find the king," Amos cried bitterly. "And even if I did find him, I have nothing left to give him for a gift. Now grandfather will never get well."

Amos sat down in the doorway of an old stable. He was very tired. Behind him, a small baby cried. Amos crept into the stable. The baby's parents were with him. He was very tiny, and his mother had wrapped him in some old pieces of cloth. The mother was rocking the baby. She looked very tired. Amos came a bit closer. The baby was very beautiful. Its small face seemed to glow.

Amos saw a discarded manger — a trough for hay — in the corner of the stable. He took the straw from the bottom of his satchel and placed it carefully in the manger.

"This will be a soft place for your baby to rest," said Amos as he brought the manger over to where the mother was rocking the baby.

She thanked Amos, and just for a moment, it seemed as though the baby smiled at Amos too.

It was morning when Amos left the stable to go home. He walked very slowly. Grandfather would be getting up soon. Amos decided he wouldn't tell him about last night. It would only make him feel worse. He was almost home when he heard his grandfather yelling.

"Amos. Amos. Where are you? Come quick," yelled his grandfather.

"Don't worry grandfather. I'm coming. I'm right here," Amos responded.

His grandfather's face was flushed with excitement. "Last night, Amos. You won't believe it," his grandfather continued.

"What's wrong grandfather? What's happened," Amos said, very concerned.

"Amos. A miracle! I can see again," exclaimed his grandfather.

For discussion:

- 1) Read Matthew 25:40. What does Jesus say about the things we do for others?
- 2) What gifts did Amos give to the baby Jesus? Why?
- 3) Who gave the grandfather the gift of sight? Why?
- 4) What gifts do you have that you can give to Jesus through others? How?
- 5) What is the greatest gift we can give to Jesus?

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IDEALS OF THEIR FAITH, CONTACT THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS LISTED BELOW FOR PRE-NEED OR AT-NEED SERVICES AND COUNSELING.

ROCHESTER

Ashton-Smith Funeral Home Inc.
(482-6260)
Mattle Funeral Home
(716) 482-2440
853 Culver Rd.
Malcolm M. Nulton James R. Gray

Corbett Funeral Home, Inc.
Roger G. Blakeslee
109 West Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14611
(716) 235-2000

Polvino & Granata Funeral Home Inc.
Serving Rochester and Gates
Frank Granata
371 Lake Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14608
(716) 458-3341

Schauman Funeral Home Inc.
Edwin Sulewski
2100 St. Paul Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 342-3400

Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home
1270 Norton St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 544-5000
If no answer 342-9300

Younglove-Smith Funeral Home, Inc.
Serving Greece
1511 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14615
(716) 458-6200

IRONDEQUOIT

Burns-Hanna Funeral Home
1795 East Ridge Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14622
(716) 467-5745

Edward H. Dreier Funeral Home Inc.
Edward H. Dreier
Alan E. Giltner
1717 Portland Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14617
(716) 342-8500

Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc.
Richard P. Harris
Charles E. Davis
570 Kings Highway S.
(corner Titus)
(716) 544-2041

May Funeral Home
George L. May Jr.
Raymond L. Welch
2793 Culver Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14622
(716) 467-7957

Schauman Funeral Home Inc.
Edwin Sulewski
2100 St. Paul Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 342-3400

Alvah Halloran and Son, Inc. Funeral Home
H. Daniel Halloran
2125 Chili Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 247-7590

CHILI

Leo M. Bean Funeral Home, Inc.
2771 Chili Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 235-4134
We Invite Comparison

GREECE

Arndt Funeral Home
1118 Long Pond Rd.
(near Maiden Lane)
Greece, N.Y. 14626
Ronald John Arndt
Parking for over 100 cars
(716) 225-6350

Vay, Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home Inc.
"Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facilities"
2692 Dewey Avenue
Greece, N.Y. 14616
(716) 663-5827

HENRIETTA

Henry D. Halloran Son Inc. Funeral Home
5781 W. Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, N.Y. 14586
(716) 334-9350
Francis J. Martin Sr.
Francis Joseph Martin Jr.

MACEDON

Payne-Nulton Funeral Home Inc.
22 Rickford St.
Macedon, N.Y. 14502
(315) 986-7781
Malcolm M. Nulton
James R. Gray

PENFIELD

Nulton Funeral Home
1704 Penfield Road
Penfield, N.Y. 14526
Malcolm M. Nulton
James R. Gray