



Twins!

Managing God's Money Quarterly Letter

A Pre Christmas Talk With Jesus

Christmas Edition



Good morning Lord.

Hello Michel! Yesterday seems to have been a major challenge!

Lord, sometimes I forget that you know what's going on! Yes, it was grim. Now that I think about it, You did see me struggle with my forgiveness problem. Really, I went all-out yesterday!

Michel, how often have we discussed your brother King David! You are familiar with how superbly he dealt with his many challenges. Oh yes! He did have many! He went to a quiet place to sing, to write and to call out to Me. But most importantly, he always sought to do what he thought was pleasing to Me— and He often pleased Me. Truly your brother was a man after My own heart!

Take a few moments now and mull over yesterday's issues so we may clear them up before tackling today's concerns.

One hour later.

Thank you Lord for your kindness and your guidance. Actually, I have been frustrated and angry because nobody seems to care to do things right the first time. In fact even the machines that I have to deal with in increasing numbers daily, make mistakes! Meantime, I seem to be forever under intense pressure; anyhow, now I am relaxed, joyful and ready to be with You.

Good! What was it you wanted to talk about today?

You know you said I should bring everything to you. Well, this is truly a small thing, but I hope it isn't too small to talk about now.

Michel, I told you repeatedly nothing is ever too small...or even too large to bring to Me! Do you know how I spend My time? Mostly I wait on you— and of course, Pat, Mary, Jim and others, to call. While I wait, however, I try to get your attention so I may talk to you and guide you; please come to Me whenever you wish, I am always available to you and others who call. Ok?

Dear Father, I am confused, disturbed and anxious! I know I shouldn't be thinking this way, especially since this is the Christmas season! Why am I frustrated and depressed? I am broke and getting deeper in debt! Truly, I need a new car! Further, my relatives and friends will be visiting us over the holidays and I must change some furniture, paint sections of the house, and buy a larger dining table! And of course, you know the children don't have enough clothes! Anyway, the positive side is the great deals that now exist on cars and furniture. I can get what I need and not pay anything now! I guess I should be thankful for this!

Michel My dear son, truly I don't understand the problem. Remind Me again why you need these things.

Father you already know! It is Christmas and everybody will be celebrating! Last year at our family gathering, as usual at our home, Aunt Louise complained about my small dining table and the old sofa, and I don't want to go through this again, so I must ...

Michel, Michel, you spend so much time with Me, yet you don't understand the significance of Christmas? Let Me take you back to the prophetic words of your brother Isaiah:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this - Isaiah 9:6 -7 (NIV).

We have spoken about your excitement at the fulfillment of these words repeatedly. How I remember December 1985 when you called out to Me and told Me you couldn't do it on your own. Oh yes, we had a party up here celebrating that event! I told you about it a few times over the years. Remember? Allow Me to jog your memory about the realization of this prophecy that the beloved Apostle John described so vividly and which we have talked about often:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes

in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil - John 3:16-19.

Michel, Christmas is the time to remember My birth— and more! Yes, Michel, more! My Father and I desire that all would get to know Me, not just acknowledge and celebrate My birth! That's why We "call" each person daily. But everyone is so busy and distracted down there they don't hear My voice! I have told you again and again, "My sheep hear My voice ... and they follow Me."ⁱⁱ

Michel it is shocking how many folks spend time doing what they think is My will, but in fact is theirs! They rush from one crisis to another and ignore the poor brother in the shelter, the poor sister struggling with her baby, and the ministry that is upholding My name! They want bigger churches, more money, more programs, but are too busy to hear My voice!

Michel, Christmas is the time to examine your life and stop doing things on your own: To slow down, to reflect and ask yourself where you will spend eternity! Am I ever happy you decided to talk to Me today!

Michel, let Me repeat what you have said so far. You plan to celebrate My birthday frustrated, anxious, depressed, and determined to please Aunt Louise at any cost! Essentially, buying things you don't need and can't afford, using credit card debt! How often have we discussed what a "deal" is? Michel please don't buy anything because the payment terms are "good". Buy only after talking with Me.

Several times we discussed how you use My money on frivolous things, which eventually creates huge loans. You don't use My funds to feed the poor and comfort the hurting! Michel, do you understand that every cent of interest you pay on a loan or credit card debt reduces the amount you should allocate to My people! Do you see what...

Lord, I am anxious because it is only twelve shopping days to Christmas. I wonder; should I wait a few more days before buying the dining table? I am worried that I may buy it now and it will be much cheaper in January? Lord, do you understand why I am so confused?

Michel, please allow Me to finish the thought. Please listen, son. Can we agree that you will try to hear and understand what I have to say before responding? This is something I notice with My people on earth: few persons seem to want to listen, even when they are helping others, supposedly in My name!

Yes Lord, I will listen and try to understand.

My Father sent Me into this world to remove the need for on going animal sacrifices that was previously required to remove sin. I told you about the annual Day of Atonement when sins and guilt were removed by sacrificing one animal and releasing another into the wilderness. I knew when I came to this earth I would die for each person who lived; My Father and I agreed to do this so that each person who believe in Me would have everlasting life. Oh Michel, do you know how happy I am that you believe; especially since nobody can take you away from Me!

The Apostle Paul explains further the need for Me to come to offer hope to the world:

For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him
- Hebrews 9:24-28 (NIV).

Michel, the essence of Christmas is the hope you have in Me. You can't see Me, and sometimes you can't even hear Me. But because you have surrendered your life to Me, you can be assured that one day you will sit down right here with Me and you and I will celebrate with many others. There will be continuous singing and praising— joyous living forever!

Meantime, stand firm! Don't be caught up in the distractions of the media about the number of shopping days, boxing day sales and other commercial aspects of Christmas. Stay focused on your mission on earth: obey My words, make disciples of every nationⁱⁱⁱ, feed the poor, help to provide shelter to the homeless, give water to the thirsty, encourage others with kind words. This is how you celebrate My birthday. Do these things not only at Christmas, but also throughout the year. Let this be your normal lifestyle. Most importantly, however, please don't spend any money to buy things just because the advertising is infectious, everybody is buying, and it seems like the right thing to do! Don't acquire any debt, now or in the future. Be patient, I promise, I will supply your needs.

Remember, you are My Chief Executive Officer, responsible to manage My funds according to My principles and for My benefit^v. Let this Christmas be the start of your new way of life. Tell others about it and encourage them to do likewise. Michel I love you just as you are; more than you will ever imagine. I promise, I will never leave you or forsake you^v. Every

time you call Me, I will answer^{vi}. Truly I look forward to our regular conversations; I will always be here whenever you need Me.

Here is a crucial reminder for today: do not be discouraged when nobody responds as you share this good news of My birth, My ultimate sacrifice, and My resurrection. As you and I discussed time and again, your role is to share the truth from the Bible; My Father and I will do the rest. Don't be caught up in the ever popular and growing trend of counting the numbers "coming to Christ". We provide each person with the gift to accept; neither you nor anyone else can make anyone accept Me. Continue planting seeds, that's your role— "the harvest is plentiful but workers are few"^{vii}!

Finally Michel, please leave your debt burden, anxiety, stress and frustration with Me today. You know I will never return them to you. Please do not try to wrestle them from Me.

Here they are Lord, thank you so much! Already I feel relieved! Sorry I didn't listen when you tried to get my attention. Lord, these are my words of **HOPE** for this Christmas.

Heavens declare the Glory of God

Open your ears and listen to His call

Praise God for sending His only Son to die to save us from the fall

Eternal Life His grace secured for us all

Dear heavenly Father, I give you glory, honor and praise!

Dear reader, I pray you will get to know Messiah personally and you will experience the ensuing **hope**, **peace** and **joy**! Merry Christmas to you and your family!

ⁱ Acts 13:22

ⁱⁱ John 10:27 (NAS 95)

ⁱⁱⁱ Matthew 28:18-20

^{iv} Matthew 22:36-39; Matthew 25:14-30

^v Hebrews 13:5

^{vi} Jeremiah 33:3

^{vii} Matthew 9:37 (NAS95)