

# River Valley Notes

GO

## Part #2: Packing For the Trip

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December 2, 2007

**Big Idea:** In the coming of Jesus we learn something very important about God... and something equally important about what it means to follow Him: He is a seeker and restorer of the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Our Favorite Myth:** In order to be \_\_\_\_\_ by God, I must meet certain \_\_\_\_\_ of conduct.

**Christmas Truth:** My acceptability to God is based, not on my \_\_\_\_\_, but on His undeserved \_\_\_\_\_ toward me.

**Our Favorite Detour: The \_\_\_\_\_ Theory**  
“If God is really \_\_\_\_\_, then we will all get what we \_\_\_\_\_.”

### Problems With the Fairness Theory:

**1. There is no single, \_\_\_\_\_ set of rules defining God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and requirements.**

**Therefore:** The fairness theory is not \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. No one is capable of \_\_\_\_\_ whatever \_\_\_\_\_ they actually have.**

**Therefore:** The fairness theory leads, not to \_\_\_\_\_ by God, but certain \_\_\_\_\_ by Him.

*The news about Jesus coming to earth to reveal God to us is not about fairness - it’s not about giving us what we \_\_\_\_\_ – it’s about \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*In Christ, God has given us exactly what we do not deserve.*

### God Playing Favorites... With Us All

*Luke 2:14-15 NIV* “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go...

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...continued

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#### First Things First: Grace Upon Grace

To understand the story, understand the \_\_\_\_\_.

*John 1:14-18 NIV* The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’” From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

#### Good News for the Guilty

*Romans 3:19-29 NIV* Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law

#### Luggage Inspection

**The universal principle: You always \_\_\_\_\_ what you are.**

*Matthew 23:15 NIV* “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.