

Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 20

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The Christmas Letter

Ruth went to her mail box where there was only one letter without a stamp or postmark, only her name and address were on the envelope. She read the letter: Dear Ruth, I'm going to be in your neighborhood for Christmas and I'd like to stop by for a visit this Saturday afternoon. Love Always, Jesus. Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer and my cabinets are empty." She needed to go to the store but when she counted her money it came up to only eight dollars and forty cents. She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. She purchased a loaf of bread, some sliced ham, and a pint of milk. This left her with twelve cents to last her until Monday. She felt good as she headed home knowing that her meager offerings would help her to host such an important guest. "Hey lady, can you help me?" Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans that she hadn't noticed the man dressed in rags. "Sorry to bother you but I don't have a job and I've been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and I'm getting hungry and if you could help, I'd appreciate it."

Ruth looked at him and she could tell he had been on the cold streets for a while. She knew she's not to judge others but thought to herself that he could get some kind of work if he really wanted to. "Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to him." The man thanked her and put his arm around her shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley. As she watched him leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. "Sir, wait! Here, take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her meager groceries. "Thank you lady; thank you very much!" Ruth said "You know I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one?" Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and gave it to him. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to her house without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest.

Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it. Dear Ruth, It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal and thank you, too, for the beautiful coat. Love Always Jesus.

This is one of those things that I get in from time to time that I think is worthy of saving and passing along. The source is unknown. This Christmas I hope you are ready for the coming Lord.

George