**Jesus,**

**what do you mean?**

***“I came down from Heaven. . .”***

Or, “Three Gifts of Christ’s Coming”

John 6:38

The Words:

 This time of year we give gifts, all of which are but shadows of the greatest Gift, God’s gift of His Son. Jesus was clear that He “came down from Heaven,” that is, God’s presence (John 3:13; 31; 6:38, 41, 50, 51, 58), and that He was sent by God (3:34; 4:34; 5:23, 24, 30, 36, 37, 38; 6:29, 38, 39, 44, 57; and 27 more times). Jesus is making sure that people know that He is not telling a new story, but carrying His Father’s message on His Father’s mission, recorded in the TANAKH.

The Challenge:

 We may have the same response to Jesus’ words as His first hearers. How can anyone who looks so normal be from heaven? Everything we think about heaven is other-worldly, and Jesus appeared to be from a normal family with a normal upbringing. They “knew” Him, and because He was familiar, were offended that He would make such outlandish claims. Today, in the same way, many “know” that miracles don’t happen, and that “God” does not exist.

The Principle: The Greatest Gift x 3 John 6:30-40

The Savior: The Gift of the Son, the Bread of Life. John 6:30-32

 Jesus’ coming down from heaven shows that God cares for sinners, welcomes them, and provides satisfaction for them.

Eternal Life: The Gift from the Son, eternal life. John 6:33

 Jesus’ coming down from heaven enables Him to give life to all who will believe in and follow Him.

Believers: The Gift to the Son, God’s redeemed people. John 6:34-40

 Jesus’ coming down from heaven reflects His eternal love for His people and the Trinity’s plan to save them.

The Application: Three Advent Questions

1. ***Have you received God’s gift personally?***

 It is essential for our salvation that we not only acknowledge God’s Gift of His Son, but embrace and receive Him for ourselves. It is a choice, an act of the will which begins a life of following Him. John 1:9-13

1. ***Which captivates your mind, this life or eternal life?***

 It is essential for our spiritual growth that we be filled with the joys of God rather than thrilled with the toys of man. Loving the Lord our God with all out hearts is not an elective course, but a delightful duty. Phil. 4:4-7

1. ***Do you understand your security in Christ?***

 It is essential for our stability that we know that we are eternally His, and know who we are in Him. The historic reality of Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection are the foundation of our spiritual life, and we draw from His life to live ours. Colossians 3:1-10