

The Unopened Present

The best present we can receive at Christmas time, or anytime, is Jesus. (John 3: 16 and John 10: 10).

Michelle: Geof! You've made it back to work at last! It seems an age since you've been here

Geof: Well, first it was the snow, then the ice, then Christmas break, then that training course...

Michelle: Don't worry, you've not missed out, I've kept it for you

Geof: Kept what?

Michelle: Your "secret Santa" present (*getting a wrapped Christmas present out of a Santa sack*)

Geof: I can't have a "secret Santa" present now, it's the 14th January! It's too late! Christmas is over.

Michelle: Not for you it isn't! (*shaking present at him*)

Geof: I don't want it, I'm not in the mood. Stick it in a draw for someone to have next year.

Michelle: How can you not want a present? Are you ill?

Geof: No, I just don't want to pretend there's anything left to celebrate, when the reality is the holidays are over and we're back to work, back to normal life

Michelle: But there is something left to celebrate, here it is in my hand! A present! Just for you!

Geof: What if it's some rubbish I don't want? I can't face the disappointment

Michelle: What if it's the best present you've ever had EVER?

Geof: In a "secret Santa"? I don't think so

Michelle: Just open it will you?!

Geof: (*opens present*) I don't know what it is

Michelle: Ooh! Someone's given you Jesus, that's nice

Geof: Ah! (*throws leaflet to Michelle*) I don't want it

Michelle: Yes you do, it's your present (*throwing it back*)

Geof: I didn't ask for it! (*throwing it back*)

Michelle: It's a brilliant present (*throwing it back*)

Geof: If I decide I want it later, I'll buy it myself then (*trying to negotiate his way out of taking it*)

Michelle: You can't buy Jesus! Or earn him. He's a free present.

Geof: It's a terrible present, it's like giving me guilt and work as a present, you have it! (*panicking, throwing it back*)

Michelle: I don't need it, I've already got Jesus

Geof: That explains a lot! *Sighs*. I don't know what to do with that (*pointing at leaflet*). It's going to be all "you need to change your life, you need to stop doing this, that and the other, you need to be nice to Grandma", it's going to be a load of grief. Who wants that?

Michelle: Nobody wants the present you're describing, but that's not what Jesus is about. He's about making peace between you and God, he's about being free and having hope, not do's and don'ts. You don't have to take my word for it, give him a go and see for yourself. He is the best present ever. All you have to do is receive him (*offering leaflet back to Geof, Geof reaches for it, freeze both holding it. Make sure Geof still holding it when leaves stage*)