**Christmas 2011**

**Grandpas explains the gift of giving**

Grandpa: well I am here today to try and get the decorations out of this here closet so grandma can get them put up.

Bub: hey grandpa what you doing? I have been looking all over for you!

Grandpa: Turning blue… yes I might be turning blue a little bit, I have been carrying these decorations out of here for your grandma.

Bub: yes I know grandma told me you were here and I came right over to help you out. I love this time of year, I get all excited about the snow, the trees and most of all the gifts.

Grandpa: Lifts? Yes you have to do several lifts, but if you lift with your knees and not your back you will be ok. A healthy young lad like you will be a big help.

Bub: Thanks grandpa but I said the gifts.. I like Christmas because of all the gifts that I will receive. Last year I got a ton of great gifts, the best one gift I got was an Xbox and some games.

Grandpa: Train? That isn’t a train that is me breathing, I am just about out of breath. I need to sit down and take my supervisory stance in that chair over there. It is about time for you to use the rest of your hands and not just those fingers on that there Xbox remote.

Bub: You go right ahead and sit down grandpa, take a break. I can do this moving and heavy lifting. Wow you and grandma have a lot of decorations; you guys must really love Christmas to be putting up this many decorations for the tree.

Grandpa: You want to sit on my knee? Hahaha… aren’t you a little bit old to be asking santa for some gifts? Besides my knees are like they used to be and I don’t think they could take the strain of someone of your… hmmm… stature.

Bub: Grandpa you are so funny, I didn’t say sit on your knee I said I like the decorations that are going on the tree. And yes I am too old to believe in Santa, I stopped believing about him almost two years ago. I know exactly where the gifts come from and why I get them. I know that by being good all year will give me a better chance at getting a gift that I want the most.

Grandpa: Toast? No I don’t want any toast but I do want to tell you what is important about Christmas. I think you are on the right track but you are pulling up to the wrong station. Chug a lug chug a lug Christmas is important but not for the reasons everyone has made it over the years.

Bub: What do you mean grandpa?

Grandpa: Well you have been telling me what you think Christmas is all about. I see that you seem to think that the snow, the singing and the gifts are important but I don’t think you understand why you think that.

Bub: But they are important grandpa. I enjoy giving gifts to everyone and I also enjoy receiving them from everyone. I get a good feeling when someone opens a gift that I bought them and I see how excited they are to get it. And when I open a gift that someone gives me and it is exactly what I wanted I am excited too. I don’t know what else there is to Christmas but that good warm feeling.

Grandpa: Schilling? Yes we used to earn and spend about a shilling on gifts that we gave, but that isn’t what it is all about. Sure you feel all warm and snuggly when you give a gift to someone but you also get the same feeling waking up next to a grizzly bear, but it doesn’t mean everyone should do it. It just means you wake up there but you don’t know how you got there. Christmas is the same way, everyone thinks they know what it is all about but they really don’t. Over the years they have decided to place an X in place of Christ – instead of Christmas they want to say xmas. If only they knew what they were doing. But like every good treasure hunt X always marks the spot. So all they are doing is marking a big X on the most important part of Christmas - Christ

Bub: Grandpa I sort of know what you are talking about, but I still don’t understand why the gifts are not important.

Grandpa: The gifts are a part of Christmas but not the most important part. The most important part of Christmas is Christ, the day he was born in the manger. God sent his only son to earth to be born here for a reason. That reason is why you and I are here. Jesus had a very special reason to be born and that reason is our salvation.

Bub: I have heard mom and dad talk about this but I didn’t quite understand it. Tell me more grandpa

Grandpa: Well Jesus was born so he could one day be crucified on the cross for our sins. He knew that man would never understand the true meaning of sacrifice until He(Jesus) the ultimate sacrifice was made. When he died on the cross it showed us the true meaning of giving. It shows us that during Christmas it is about the spirit of giving but not in the giving of gifts that you think. It is about celebrating the birth of our King, our savior. It is about remembering the sacrifice that He was and the great gift of love that he gave to us and continues to give to us each and every day.

Bub: Wow!!! You know I never thought of it that way grandpa. I have also thought It was about giving the gifts but I never looked at it from that way before. Do you think that because I believed it was about the gifts and not about Christ I will get in trouble?

Grandpa: Shovel? Well you can get the shovel out after you get these decorations carried downstairs. I can tell you right now that snow is an important of Christmas, at least when you have a shovel in your hand.

Bub: I love the snow!!! I love building a snowman, I love sledding and I love making snow angels

Grandma: The bangles? I don’t know if walking like the Egyptians will help out when you are shoveling the snow but you can try it if it makes you feel better.

(grandpa leaving - singing – walk like an Egyptian, walk like an Egyptian)

Bub: I am so excited about finding out the true reason for Christmas, I cant wait until I tell mom and dad. Grandpa is so awesome, I will have to buy an a very special gift.

Grandpa: (still down) I heard that . Make sure it is a lightweight 7”foot graphite rod with a stiff backbone and a medium fast tip. And don’t forget the lures.