- The man in our text thought he had found the secret to happiness, how to have a merry life, but sadly, he missed it.

- Maybe Christmas hasn't been a merry time for you in the past. The good news is this: if your Christmas has lost its merry, you can do something about it. How?

First, by placing your emphasis on _____, not possessions.

- We can pour the best years of our lives into acquiring dead, inanimate objects. Do you know what the result is? We come up _____.

- *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."* **Colossians 1:16-17**

- Christ didn't come to earth to _____ possessions, but rather He came to form relationships with people. He invested His _____ in people!

- When you pour your life into possessions, you leave an _____ when you die.

- When you pour your life into your relationship with Christ and people, you leave a _____ when you die.

Second, by using your _____ to be a blessing.

- How did this man respond to God's blessings? Like a sponge, he soaked up the blessings, but never

_____ anything back out.

- This man had not learned the secret of true joy. True joy comes through _____, not hoarding.

- *"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."* **Acts 20:35**

- Here is a prescription for joy: take your _____ and use them to be a blessing to others. God has blessed you to be a _____.

- *"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate."* **1Timothy 6:17-18**

You have no control over the way the world treats the birth of Christ, but you do have control over _____ actions and attitudes.