

A night scene with a bright light source in the sky and a small house with lit windows in the foreground. The light source is a bright, glowing orb in the upper center, casting a vertical beam of light down towards the house. The house is a simple, rectangular structure with a gabled roof, and its three windows are illuminated from within, casting a warm yellow glow. The house is surrounded by a dark fence, and the background is a dark, clear night sky.

# Riches to Rags

The ultimate Christmas story

# Riches to Rags

Most of us are familiar with rags to riches stories. The uneducated, disadvantaged teenager who becomes an entrepreneur worth millions of pounds; the rejected Cinderella who eventually marries the prince and lives in the palace. It's the theme of pantomime – it's occasionally the stuff of real life.

Christmas tells us a different story. One who was rich beyond all measure became poor – chose to lay aside position, privilege and even his life so that others may become rich. Riches to rags, so that the poor might be rich!



## When was he rich?

How do we measure wealth? Is it money in the bank, shares on the stock market or properties on every continent?

How about this:

“He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see - such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.”

Colossians 1: 16 (NLT)

Jesus Christ existed before the world began, and everything came into existence at his command.

This is power and wealth beyond our imagination!



## Born in a manger

When Jesus, the maker of the universe, came to this world he didn't enter in style - it wasn't a sterile hospital or comfortable home. Literally, there was no room in the inn, so a cattle feeding trough became his first resting place.

**“She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.”**

Luke 2: 7 (NLT)

This was to be the pattern of his life - never grabbing the limelight or seeking attention for himself, Jesus was always humble and understated.

The King of kings and Lord of lords - yet never claiming his rights or privilege.



## And so in life

Jesus spent most of his life in obscurity. When he did 'go public', the powerful and wealthy thought he mixed with the wrong sort of people. His enemies criticised him by saying:

**"He's a glutton and a drunkard,  
and a friend of tax collectors  
and other sinners!"**

Luke 7: 34 (NLT)

But Jesus didn't come for the 'well off', the self sufficient and the self satisfied. He put it like this:

**"Healthy people don't need a  
doctor - sick people do. I have  
come to call not those who think  
they are righteous, but those who  
know they are sinners"**

Mark 2: 17 (NLT)



## Another step down

If becoming human, being placed in a manger and living a life of humility wasn't enough . . .

**“he humbled himself . . . and died  
a criminal’s death on a cross.”**

Philippians 2: 8 (NLT)

The one who created life, gave his life when he died on the cross. The birth, life and death of Jesus was one of sacrifice - consistently putting aside all claims to position and wealth.

But it was all for a purpose. It is through his life and death that we can receive life.

**“Christ suffered . . .  
to bring you safely home to God..”**

1 Peter 3: 18 (NLT)



## Riches to rags, rags to riches!

“You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich..”


2 Corinthians 8: 9 (NLT)

This is no fairy tale - or some fictional, sentimental story, common at this time of year. This is truth; the creator of the universe gave up everything so that you can have life.

And this life is a gift from God, and like all gifts it needs to be received.

This Christmas, thank God for his indescribable gift and receive life by putting your trust in the one who gave up everything for you.





“For God loved the world so much  
that he gave his one and only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
will not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3: 16 (NLT)

For more information:

