



## The Grinch and His Redemption

Gather 'round, my dear friends, for I have a wonderful story to share with you tonight. You all know about the Grinch, don't you? The Grinch, whose heart was 'two sizes too small,' was filled with bitterness and hatred towards Christmas.

I (Santa) went to the top of the mountain to visit Mr. Grinch. He had ended up on the naughty list one too many times.

We sat down and I shared with him what Christ said, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

I said to the Grinch, "Now isn't that a Great promise."

He said, "That makes NO SENSE. I don't need saving. What do I need saving from? I am just as good as anyone else."

I explained to him that you and I would seem like good people in a human sense, however God has a higher standard. God is HOLY and demands perfect sinlessness to be in his presence.

I said to the Grinch, "Have you always kept God's laws? Have you always put God first in your life? Have you always obeyed your parents? Have you ever lied? Have you ever stolen anything regardless of the value? Ever hated anybody?" The Bible says, 'Who ever hates his brother is a murderer.

Then I told him that that Bible says, "For who ever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all."

So you see Grinch, you are just like me a lying, thieving, murderer at heart. God looks inward at your motives at your heart, and Grinch you have a heart of stone.

But here is the Good News. About 2000 years ago, God sent Jesus to earth to pay the penalty for sin. Born of a virgin, he lived a sinless life. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the Father's wrath, then defeated the power of sin and death when he rose from the grave.

Jesus now commands everyone to repent (turn from sin) and to trust in him in faith. Not just believe, but to trust and obey. If you do that in Jesus ALONE God promised he will grant you eternal life...and that is the best Christmas gift you could ever receive.

The Grinch listened and I could tell he was seriously thinking about what I told him, but his heart was HARD like stone.

He wanted nothing more than to stop Christmas from coming, and so he hatched a plan to steal every gift, ornament, and feast in Whoville.

But something miraculous happened that fateful Christmas morning. You see, even though the Grinch had taken away all the gifts, decorations, and food, Christmas came just the same. The Whos in Whoville still gathered, still sang songs of joy, still celebrated the spirit of Christmas. And as the Grinch watched them, his heart began to change. He remembered what I had told him about the Savior Jesus.

The Bible tells us that God can take our heart of stone and give us a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). And that's exactly what happened to the Grinch. As he stood there, something stirred inside him—something he hadn't felt in a long time. Love. Joy. Hope. He realized that Christmas wasn't about the things he had stolen, but about something much deeper—love and the gift of God's own Son, Jesus.

In that moment, the Grinch's heart grew 'three sizes that day,' and he was transformed. Just like the Grinch, we too can have our hearts changed when we open ourselves to God's love. Jesus came into this world to change hearts, to bring us closer to God, and to fill us with love, joy, and peace. The Grinch found his redemption not in presents or decorations, but in the love that Christmas truly represents—a love that began with the greatest gift of all, the birth of our Savior.

So, my friends, let's remember that no matter how far away we may feel from love, God is always ready to change our hearts. Just like the Grinch, we too can be transformed by the power of love and the joy of Christmas."

Merry Christmas!"