

## **White Friday! What If...**

(Somewhere, perhaps in a universe not so far away...)

The mall is teeming with people -- after all, it is "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." The Thanksgiving holiday has just ended, and it is now time for the day everyone has been anticipating -- White Friday.

White Friday is a day like no other. Leftovers from the abundance of Thanksgiving are packaged to provide food for the event -- which can sometimes last for days. People rise early and travel great distances to get a place in line at the Mall. No one fights; no one pushes; no one breaks line -- that is not what White Friday is all about.

It is on this day of all days that lives are touched in a special way. Anticipation builds throughout the year -- in young and old alike. It is on this day that they will see Him -- and He will speak with them. The line is long, but no one complains. Each one knows their time will come -- and each knows that the visit will be well worth the wait. Hope and excitement are evident on the faces of all involved! Some in the long line sing joyful songs -- others somberly and quietly soak in the joy of the moment.

The line moves ever so slowly, but no one complains. They know their time will come. It always has. It always will. He is always trustworthy; always reliable.

As the line inches forward, His hearty laughter can be heard from some distance. It is not a laugh of scorn or of ridicule -- but of blessing! Those who have just met with Him also -- as they are departing -- have that same laugh of joy. They have received a life-changing blessing from Him - - and it is obvious He joys above all else in giving it!

One at a time they approach Him. He takes the young children in His arms and talks with them. Each teen or adult who meets with Him sits in front of Him -- and He looks directly into their eyes as He speaks life-changing words of blessing to them. Some faces seem troubled at first by His words -- and many tears are shed -- but they are soon followed by smiles, hugs, and laughter. Faces beam brightly as they return to their homes after meeting with Him.

Yes, it is White Friday. It is the day when all -- well, all who wish it -- stand in line to meet with Jesus. It is on this day that He tells us what we really need in life. Sometimes, at first, we do not want to hear His words -- but we know that He knows what we need. He always knows what is best. And no matter what it takes -- no expense is too great -- we want to hear and to know His words of blessing.

Each year on White Friday, we come to the Mall empty-handed, and we leave the Mall with only one gift -- the one gift we have received from Him.

And it is enough.

What if... ?

[Note: On the day after the Thanksgiving Day Holiday (Black Friday) 2015, I posted the following statement on FaceBook: “It just occurred to me... wouldn't it be cool if people stood in line in the Mall for hours so that Jesus could tell them what they REALLY needed for Christmas?” Several people “Liked” this idea and even “Shared” this simple thought with others. Then I wondered, what might this “White Friday” be like?]

(Originally written: November 27, 2015)