



Sermon: Our Three Christmas Gifts December 24, 2023

- I. Introduction
 - a. We are celebrating the first coming of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Soon we will be celebrating the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- II. Gifts during the first coming of Christ
 - a. When Christ came to this world, wise men brought him three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- III. Gifts we are to prepare to celebrate the second coming of Christ.
 - a. Peter got up in the book of Acts and said it was the last days.

1 Peter 4:7-11 NKJV

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your **prayers**. ⁸ And **above all things have fervent love** for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."⁹ *Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.* ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, **minister it to one another, as good stewards** of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the ^{oracles} of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the ^{dominion} forever and ever. Amen.

- b. Peter gave a strategy for the church to be relevant and transform culture in the last days.
 - i. Pray
 - ii. Fervent Love
 - iii. Serving
 - c. The world is becoming self centered and selfish. Peter strategy was to serve one another and love them instead of being self centered.
 - d. The number one need that we have is the need to feel significant! You find that through servant hood.
 - e. **For God so loved the world..... He gave. When you and I are giving, we are the most like God.**
 - f. There should be contrast with the world. We are called out. The world is selfish. We are called to servanthood.
 - g. Two callings
 - i. **Universal: The call to salvation.**
 - ii. **Servanthood: Once we accept salvation, there is another call.**
- IV. The Biblical Definition of Servanthood
 - a. I've made Jesus lord of my life.
 - b. I've surrendered to His will.
 - c. I'm faithful to the work He has given to me.
 - i. **I've been in some of the greatest churches and felt like something was missing. Usually, it wasn't the church that had something missing. It was me that had serving missing in my life.**
 - d. You use the gifts and talents that God has given to you to benefit other people.
 - e. I have the attitude of Christ.
- V. Foundation of Servanthood

- a. It leads to promotion, prominence, and greatness.

Mark 10:43-45 TLB

but among you it is different. Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever wants to be greatest of all must be the slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even I, the Messiah, ^(a) am not here to be served, but to help others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

- b. Great: God wants you to desire to be great.
 - i. The disciples were arguing who was the greatest.
 - ii. **Jesus didn't blast them about wanting to be great. He gave instructions of how to be great.**
 - 1. He said lead a different way than the world. Accept the calling to servanthood.
 - iii. **It doesn't say when we worship or praise we are like Him but when we serve we are like Him.**
 - 1. Giving of your time, talent, and treasure.
 - 2. Some people can't even give a Sunday.
- c. Realize other people are more important than I

Philippians 2:3-5 AMPC

³ Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit *and* empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than *and* superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves]. ⁴ Let each of you esteem *and* look upon *and* be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this same attitude *and* purpose *and* [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]

Romans 12:10-11 AMPC

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence *and* showing honor to one another. ¹¹ Never lag in zeal *and* in earnest endeavor; be aglow *and* burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord.

- d. We show honor to others!
- e. Burning with zeal to serve.
 - i. How do you keep serving when people disappoint you? How do you keep going? You're not serving people, you are serving the Lord through serving people.
 - ii. The Lord has never disappointed me.
- f. Verse 11: Notice the Holy Spirit gets involved when we get involved.