



Connect Discussion Guide

Sunday Message - 11/15/20 | Chuck Sackett | Matthew 7:28-9:13

Greater gifts are given and received when everyone experiences the gospel.

Key Scriptures:

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

- Matthew 9:9-13

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

- Hosea 6:6

And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

- Mark 12:33

Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

- Luke 15:7

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 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.

- John 3:16-17

Message Highlights:

- The gospel is the greatest gift, it surpasses all other gifts.
- Authority matters. Authority to be in relationship with God matters most.
- Nothing surpasses a call from Jesus to be His disciple.
- The right to respond to the gospel may be the greatest gift God has given us.
- The gospel is the greatest gift we can give to others.

Conversation Starter:

- What is the most memorable and/or meaningful Christmas gift you have ever received?

Discuss the Message:

1. If someone asked you, “What is the gospel?,” how would you answer them?
2. Why is it so important to get real with ourselves and figure out what we truly value the most?
3. How can we discern what we truly value most? What are some indicators of who or what we value most?
4. How do the gifts we give at Christmastime reflect what we value?
5. Are you willing to give up some “good gifts” in your life in order to give and receive even greater gifts? If you find it difficult to say “yes” with certainty, why do you think that is? If you are willing to give up some things you enjoy for things you value most, what has helped you embrace that?

Pray:

- Pray for one another.
- Pray for our church, our community, and the world as we continue to navigate the challenges and difficulties of COVID-19.
- Pray for unity within the body of Christ in times of social division and tension.
- Pray for our Rethink Christmas efforts, that God would bless what is given to spread the gospel far and wide.
- Pray for the children who will receive Operation Christmas child shoeboxes. Pray that the gifts would point them to the greatest gift, the gospel of Jesus.