

## Sermon Notes

### A Present for God – Micah 6:6-8

December 15, 2019

#### I. Introduction

- a. got all your shopping done yet... if not, here are some ideas...  
Cabbage Patch... Furby... Wii... Elmo... Easy Bake... Pogo Stick...
- b. giving presents is easy... getting perfect present is hard... doesn't fit, wrong color, already have, don't want... want to get ones that are *just right*... mixture of joy and surprise...
- c. what do you get person who has it all... what do you get God... *pray*...  
1Chron 29... "everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to You..."  
Psa 24:1... "the earth is the Lord's and all it contains..."  
Heb 1:2... "gave everything to Son as inheritance... created universe..."

#### II. A Present for God

- a. can be awkward to ask what people want... *supposed to know*, right... create *wish lists*... bookmark *Cabela's* flyers... accidentally leave *The Exchange* phone number on counter... go ahead, just ask me...
- b. God has wish list... gave it to Micah... 700 years before Christ (*Isaiah*)... known for one of the most awesome prophecies about Messiah...  
Micah 5:2... "but you, *Bethlehem Ephrathah, only a small village, yet Ruler of Israel will come from you... whose origins from everlasting...*"
- c. Micah was country boy... blunt, direct, plain-spoken, no-nonsense guy... loved common man, hated corruption... basically condemnation of religious and political leaders who took advantage of people...
- d. what was his world like... a lot like ours...  
*International Tension* - Israel caught between three warring nations... Assyria, Egypt, Philistines... paid Assyria for peace, led to slavery...  
*Religious Corruption* - priests took bribes... most leaders corrupt...  
2Tim 4:2-5... "preach Word... be ready... correct, rebuke, encourage... time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine... follow own desires and look for teachers to tell them what they want to hear... turn away from truth... endure hardship, share Good News..."  
*Moral Chaos* - anything goes... no one could be trusted... immorality, bribery, crime, corruption... few lived for God...  
Isa 5:20... "woe to those who call evil good, good evil..."

#### II. A Present for God

- e. heard Micah's warning... wanted to know what God wanted... year old calf was thought to be best offering... *quality*... not right answer...  
Micah 6:6... "what can we bring... what kind of offerings should we give... should we bow and offer year-old calves..."
- f. if not quality, then maybe *quantity*... still not what God wanted...  
Micah 6:7... "should we offer Him thousands of rams... and ten thousand rivers of olive oil..."
- g. offerings became even greater... the *ultimate* sacrifice... let's make a deal God... *quid pro quo*... I'll do this, you do that... answer is still no...  
Micah 6:7... "should we sacrifice our children to pay for our sins..."  
Micah 6:8... "no, O people, this is what the Lord requires..."
- i. all these deal with outside actions... God wants your heart...  
Exo 35:21... "*heart* was moved and spirit prompted him..."  
Deut 6:29... "find God when you seek with all your *heart*..."  
Deut 28:47... "serve the Lord with joy and a cheerful *heart*..."  
Psa 19:14... "may the meditation of my *heart* be acceptable..."  
Psa 37:31... "the instruction of God is in his *heart*..."  
Psa 73:1... "God is indeed good... to the pure in *heart*..."  
Prov 3:5... "trust in the Lord with all your *heart*..."  
Prov 4:23... "guard your *heart* above all else..."  
Prov 27:19... "the *heart* reflects the person..."  
*lebab*... heart, soul, understanding, mind, thinking, emotions, passions...
- j. Israel wasn't interested in what God wanted... wanted to give what they wanted... not as valuable as their heart... what did God want...  
Micah 6:8... "act *justly* (absolutely fair in our dealings; care for orphans, poor, widows; not take advantage of less fortunate)... love *mercy* (practice kindness and compassion)... walk *humbly* (set aside self-righteousness)..."  
Hosea 6:6... "want you to show love, know Me... not offer sacrifices..."  
Matt 9:13... "learn what this means... *I desire mercy, not sacrifice*..."  
John 6:28-29... "what can we do... believe in the One He has sent..."  
1John 3:22-23... "this is His command... believe in His Son Jesus..."  
Col 3:11-15 (*TPT*)... "Christ means everything as He lives in us... you are always and dearly loved by God... be merciful as you endeavor to understand others... be compassionate, showing kindness toward all... be gentle and humble, unoffendable in your patience with others... tolerate weaknesses... forgiving one another in the same way you have been forgiven... if you find fault with someone, release this same gift of forgiveness to them... love is mark of maturity... always be thankful..."
- k. God doesn't ask you to give anything He hasn't already provided... doesn't want a bunch of stuff from you... He wants you... *pray*...  
Matt 12:18... "He will proclaim *justice* to the nations..."  
Luke 1:50-52... "His *mercy* is to generations... He exalts the *humble*..."

## Origins from Everlasting

Micah 5:2... *one will come from you to be ruler over Israel...*

The Lord Jesus has goings forth for His people as their representative before the throne, long before they appeared upon the stage of time. It was *from everlasting* that He signed the compact with His Father, that He would pay blood for blood, suffering for suffering, agony for agony, and death for death.

It was *from everlasting* that He gave Himself up without a murmuring word. That from the crown of His head to the sole of His foot He might sweat great drops of blood, that He might be spit upon, pierced, mocked, rent asunder, and crushed beneath the pains of death.

His goings forth as our Surety were *from everlasting*. Pause, my soul, and wonder! Thou hast goings forth in the person of Jesus *from everlasting*. Not only when thou wast born into the world did Christ love thee, but His delights were with the sons of men before there were any sons of men. Often did He think of them... *from everlasting* He had set His affection upon them.

My soul, has He been so long about thy salvation, and will He not accomplish it? Has he *from everlasting* been going forth to save me, and will He lose me now? Has He carried me in His hand, as His precious jewel, and will He now let me slip from between His fingers? Did He choose me before the mountains were brought forth, or the channels of the deep were digged, and **will He reject me** now? **Impossible!**

I am sure He would not have loved me so long if He had not been a changeless Lover. If He could grow weary of me, He would have been tired of me long before now. If He had not loved me with a love as deep as hell, and as strong as death, He would have turned from me long ago. Oh, joy above all joys, to know that **I am His everlasting and inalienable inheritance, given to Him by His Father** or ever the earth was! Everlasting love shall be the pillow for my head this night.

Charles Spurgeon  
Morning and Evening Devotional - Feb 27<sup>th</sup>

## Worthy of the Gospel

Phil 1:27... *fighting together for the faith, which is the Gospel...*

The word conversation does not merely mean our talk and converse with one another, but the **whole course of our life** and behaviour in the world. The Greek word signifies the actions and the privileges of citizenship... and thus we are commanded to let our actions, as citizens of the New Jerusalem, be such as becometh the gospel of Christ.

What sort of conversation is this? In the first place, the **gospel is very simple**. Christians should be simple and plain in their habits. There should be about our manner, our speech, our dress, our whole behaviour, that simplicity which is the very soul of beauty.

The **gospel is pre-eminently true**, it is gold without dross, and the Christian's life will be lustreless and valueless without the jewel of truth. The gospel is a **very fearless** gospel. It boldly proclaims the truth, whether men like it or not. We must be equally faithful and unflinching.

But the **gospel is also very gentle**. Mark this spirit in its Founder... *a bruised reed He will not break*. Some professors are sharper than a thorn-hedge. Such men are not like Jesus. Let us seek to win others by the gentleness of our words and acts.

The **gospel is very loving**. It is the message of the God of love to a lost and fallen race. Christ's last command to His disciples was, *love one another*. O for more real, hearty union and love to all the saints... for more tender compassion towards the souls of the worst and vilest of men!

We must not forget that the **gospel of Christ is holy**. It **never excuses sin, it pardons it**, but only through an atonement. If our life is to resemble the gospel, we must shun, not merely the grosser vices, but everything that would hinder our perfect conformity to Christ. For His sake, for our own sakes, and for the sakes of others, we must strive day by day to let our conversations be more in accordance with His gospel.

Charles Spurgeon  
Morning and Evening Devotional - May 24<sup>th</sup>