

Sermon Notes

Christmas ABC's – 2Cor 8:9

December 8, 2019

I. Introduction

- have you ever tried to explain Christmas to a child... not as easy as it sounds... one young boy said, *let me get this straight, it's baby Jesus' birthday, but I get presents, is this a great religion or what...*
- how about Christmas ABC's (pic)... several versions of this... **A** is for animals... **B** for the babe... **C** for carols... **P** for presents... **R** for romps and raisins... **X** for Xmas... **Z** for zzz's as children sleep tight...
- lots of bible verses describe Christmas...
Isa 7:14... "virgin will conceive... give birth to Son... call Immanuel..."
Luke 2:11... "today, a Savior has been born to you... He is Messiah..."
Gal 4:4... "when right time came... God sent his Son, born of woman..."
- one other that sums up true meaning of Christmas... pray...
2Cor 8:9... "you know the grace of Jesus... though He was rich... He became poor... so by His poverty you might become rich..."

II. Christmas ABC's

- who is richest person you know... top 5... I know some millionaires, but no billionaires... average rich fly 1st class... medium rich charter a jet... super rich own jet... incredibly rich own airline (Solomon - \$2 trillion)...
Jeff Bezos (Amazon) - \$110 billion (spend \$28 million a day or get richer)
Bill Gates (Microsoft) - \$107 billion
Bernard Arnault (Vuitton, Moet, Tiffany) - \$106 billion
Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway) - \$87 billion
Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook) - \$75 billion
- however, Jesus owns the skies the planes fly in...
Gen 14:19... "God Most High... Possessor of heaven and earth..."
1Chron 29... "everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to You..."
Job 41:11... "everything under heaven belongs to Me..."
Psa 24:1... "the earth is the Lord's and all it contains..."
Psa 104:4... "the earth is full of Your possessions..."
John 1:3... "all things were created thru Him..."
Col 1:15-18... "everything created by Him... thru Him... for Him..."
Rev 1:5... "He is the ruler of the kings of the earth..."

God owns it all. We are just stewards of His resources. Every financial decision you make is a spiritual decision. Money is a great spiritual barometer. Dennis Rainey

II. Christmas ABC's

- take 10 best anything... wealth, power, wisdom, speakers, politicians, scientists, strength, looks, etc... add up their wealth, power, influence, skill, genius, wisdom, ability... whatever that comes to... Jesus had more in heaven... He was rich... yet left it all for you...
- notice what next line says... not He blew all His money... not His choices made Him poor... voluntarily gave it all up... He became poor... 2Cor 8:9... "He was rich... for your sake, He became poor..."
- we can understand wealth... understand poverty... but to choose poverty to benefit someone else... that is beyond us... yet, heart of the Gospel... John 1:14... "Word became flesh... moved into our neighborhood..."
- left glory of heaven to become like us... to understand our lives... He became poor... knew pain, sadness, grief, loss... endured rejection... faced evil... why, because it was the only way He could save us...
John 3:16... "God loved you... sent His Son... give us eternal life..."
Phil 2:5-8... "gave up divine privileges... slave, born as human..."
Heb 2:14-17... "Jesus shared in flesh and blood... to destroy devil..."
Heb 4:15... "He understands... faced all the same testings we do..."
- but it didn't stop there... what's the true meaning of Christmas...
2Cor 8:9... "so by His poverty you might become rich..."
- not guilt by association... grace by association... *what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown*... every blessing available to us thru Jesus...
John 1:16... "we've all received grace upon grace from His fullness..."
Eph 1:3... "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens..."
Rom 8:17-32... "co-heirs... how will He not freely give us all things..."
- but I don't deserve it*... nope, not a bit (imputation)... resume filled with failure... nothing to offer... but in Christ, I become rich... all I lacked is now provided... all my sins are gone, only His righteousness remains...
Isa 64:6... "all my righteousnesses are like filthy rags..."
2Cor 5:17-21... "He became sin... I become righteousness of God..."
- more than spiritual riches... wealthy, not poor (bible says so)...
2Cor 8:9 (GSV)... "He was wealthy, abounding in material resources, abundantly supplied... He became a poor beggar... so by His condition of being destitute... you might be richly supplied, have abundance of outward possessions, affluent in resources so you can give blessings..."
- Christmas is about giving... teach our kids ABC's of what it's all about... God gave first... we follow His example... pray...
Prov 11:24-31... "give freely, gain more... withhold, become poor..."
1Tim 6:17-19... "use money for good... generous to those in need..."
Heb 6:10... "He will not forget your work in caring for others..."

No Sweet Cane

Isa 43:24... *you have brought me no sweet cane with money...*

Worshippers at the temple were wont to bring presents of sweet perfumes to be burned upon the altar of God... but Israel, in the time of her **backsliding became ungenerous**, and made but few votive offerings to her Lord. This was evidence of **coldness of heart** towards God and His house.

Reader, does this never occur with you? Might not the complaint of the text be occasionally, if not frequently, brought against you? Those who are poor in pocket, if rich in faith, will be accepted none the less because their gifts are small... but, poor reader, do you give in fair proportion to the Lord, or is the widow's mite kept back from the sacred treasury?

The rich believer should be thankful for the talent entrusted to him, but should not forget his large responsibility, for where **much is given much will be required**... but rich reader, are you mindful of your obligations, and rendering to the Lord according to the benefit received?

Jesus gave His blood for us, what shall we give to Him? We are His, and all that we have... for He has purchased us unto Himself... can we act as if we were our own?

O for more consecration! And to this end, for more love! Blessed Jesus, how good it is of Thee to accept our sweet cane bought with money! **Nothing is too costly as a tribute** to Thine unrivalled love, and yet Thou dost receive with favour the smallest sincere token of affection! Thou dost receive our poor forget-me-nots and love-tokens as though they were intrinsically precious, though indeed they are but as the bunch of wild flowers which the child brings to its mother.

Never may we grow stingy towards Thee, and from this hour never may we hear Thee complain of us again for withholding the gifts of our love. We will give Thee the first fruits of our increase, and pay Thee tithes of all, and then we will confess
of Thine own have we given Thee.

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional - May 23rd

You Looked for Much

Haggai 1:9... *when you brought it, I blew it away...*

Churlish souls stint their contributions to the ministry and missionary operations, and call such saving good economy. Little do they dream that they are thus **impoverishing themselves**.

Their excuse is they must care for their own families, and they forget that **to neglect the house of God is the sure way to bring ruin upon their own houses**. God has a method in providence by which He can succeed beyond our endeavours, beyond our expectation, or can defeat our plans to confusion and dismay.

It is the teaching of Scripture that the **Lord enriches the liberal** and leaves the miserly to find out that **withholding tendeth to poverty**. In a very wide sphere of observation, I have noticed that the most generous Christians of my acquaintance have been always the most happy, and almost invariably the most prosperous.

I have seen the **liberal giver rise to wealth** of which he never dreamed... and I have seen the mean, ungenerous churl descend to poverty by the very parsimony by which he thought to rise.

Men trust good stewards with larger and larger sums, and so it is frequently with the Lord. **He gives by cartloads** to those who give by bushels. Where wealth is not bestowed the Lord makes the little much by the contentment which the sanctified heart feels in a portion of which the tithe has been dedicated to the Lord.

Selfishness looks first at home, but **godliness seeks first the Kingdom** of God and His righteousness. Yet in the long run selfishness is loss, and **godliness is great gain**. It needs faith to act towards our God with an open hand, but surely, He deserves it of us. And all that we can do is a very poor acknowledgement of our amazing indebtedness towards His goodness.

Charles Spurgeon
Morning and Evening Devotional - October 26th