

## Sermon Notes

### A Gift for Others – Luke 2:17-20

January 5, 2020

#### I. Introduction

- a. ever heard of Christmas in July... this is Christmas in January without the music... often forget Christmas when New Year starts...  
Psa 126:3... “the Lord has done great things... we are filled with joy...”  
Isa 9:6... “child is born... Wonderful, Mighty God, Prince of Peace...”  
Luke 1:68-69... “praise... God has come and redeemed His people...”  
2Cor 9:15... “thanks be to God for His indescribable gift...”
- b. more than just music, presents, food, family... it’s about a Savior...  
Isa 33:6... “He will be firm foundation... provide salvation, wisdom...”  
Matt 1:21... “birth to a Son... He will save people from their sins...”  
John 3:16... “God gave... everyone who believes has eternal life...”  
John 10:10... “Jesus came so we could have life... life abundantly...”
- c. have seen gifts for us... gifts for God... gifts of the heart... but how do we share this gift with others... pray...  
Zech 9:9... “rejoice... shout in triumph... your King is coming...”  
Matt 2:10-11... “rejoiced exceedingly... bowed and worshipped...”

#### II. A Gift for Others

- a. many Christians don’t share Jesus because they believe a lie... not smart enough... don’t have eloquent words... no formal training... not been to seminary... they’re *not a pastor*...  
Luke 2:8... “angel appeared to shepherds... a Savior is born for you...”  
Matt 10:20... “not you speaking... but Spirit speaking thru you...”
- b. shepherds were lowest of the low... gypsies, con men, bums... little or no education... many couldn’t read or write... trusted so little their testimony wasn’t accepted in court... 400 years of silence from God and he sends most important message thru shepherds, not prophets...  
1Cor 1:26-31... “few of you were wise, powerful, wealthy when God called you... God chose things world considers foolish in order to shame the wise... things that are powerless to shame the powerful... things despised by world... boast only about the Lord...”
- c. not how we would have done it... many leave sharing Jesus only to pastors (limit outreach)... those blessings for you too (multiply outreach)...  
Matt 9:37-38... “harvest plentiful... but workers are few...”  
Acts 1:8... “HS come on you... be My witnesses all over world...”  
Acts 5:42... “every day... continued to teach and preach Jesus...”

#### II. A Gift for Others

- d. how does God want us to give this gift to others... by doing what lowly, uneducated shepherds did... simply respond in faith (believe)...  
Luke 2:17... “told everyone what happened...”
- e. don’t have to be theologian (prefer you not be) or pastor... just tell people the good news about what you have seen and heard in your life...  
Rom 1:16-17... “I am not ashamed of the Good News about Jesus...”  
2Tim 2:1-2... “be strong in grace... teach these things... pass them on...”
- f. sometimes before we can tell people... we have to be amazed...  
Luke 2:18... “all who heard were amazed (wondered) at these things...”
- g. Christmas (and aftermath) can be time of chaos and hurry... busy-ness and stress... don’t take time to really be amazed... kids are always amazed... more amazed you are... more likely you’ll be to share...  
Gen 1... “God created heavens and the earth...”  
Gen 2... “created man out of dirt... women out of a rib...”  
Isa 7... “a virgin shall bring forth a son...”  
John 1... “Word was God... became flesh... lived among us...”  
Rom 3... “justified freely by His grace thru redemption in Jesus...”  
Rom 8... “co-heirs with Christ... freely given us all things...”  
2Cor 5... “He became sin... we become righteousness of God...”  
Eph 1... “He chose us... to be accepted in the Beloved...”  
Heb 10... “perfect forever thru Christ... never again remember sins...”  
1John 4... “as He is... so are we in this world...”
- h. Mary treasured these things in her heart (meditated)... takes effort... beyond wonder and amazement... remembering what God has done...  
Psa 32:7... “you protect me... surround me with deliverance...”  
also: 2Sam 22:2-3; Psa 34:4, 17; Psa 107:6; Eph 6:10-18; 1John 5:4-5...  
Luke 2:19... “kept things in her heart... thought about them often...”
- i. shepherds did one other thing to bring this gift to others... glorified God... made his worth known to all people... pay attention to where...  
Luke 2:20... “went back to their flocks... glorifying and praising...”  
doxazo... impart glory, render excellent; cause worth to be made known...
- j. went back... to jobs, classrooms, family, neighborhoods... took glory of God with them... the *stuff* of Christmas has ended... gifts opened, decorations taken down, kids back to school, music back to normal... but the *meaning* of Christmas doesn’t have to end in December...
- k. as you enter 2020... take Christmas with you... tell others about the Good News... continue to be amazed at all God has done... think about His goodness often... and make His worth known to all... pray...

**Immanuel, God with us. It is hell’s terror. Satan trembles at the sound. God with us is heaven’s hallelujah, the shout of the glorified, the song of the redeemed. Spurgeon**

## Beloved

Dan 10:11... *you are a man treasured by God...*

Child of God, do you hesitate to appropriate this title? Ah!  
Has your unbelief made you forget that you are **greatly beloved** too?  
Must you not have been **greatly beloved**, to have been bought with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot? When God smote His only begotten Son for you, what was this but being **greatly beloved**?

You lived in sin, and rioted in it, must you not have been **greatly beloved** for God to have borne so patiently with you? You were called by grace and led to a Saviour, and made a child of God and an heir of heaven. All this proves, does it not, a very great and superabounding love?

Since that time, whether your path has been rough with troubles, or smooth with mercies, it has been full of proofs that you are a man **greatly beloved**. If the Lord has chastened you, yet not in anger... if He has made you poor, yet in grace you have been rich. The more unworthy you feel yourself to be, the more evidence have you that nothing but unspeakable love could have led the Lord Jesus to save such a soul as yours.

The more demerit you feel, the clearer is the display of the abounding love of God in having **chosen you**, and **called you**, and **made you an heir** of bliss.

Now, if there be such love between God and us let us live in the influence and sweetness of it, and use the privilege of our position. Do not let us approach our Lord as though we were strangers, or as though He were unwilling to hear us... for we are **greatly beloved** by our loving Father. *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He now with Him also freely give us all things?*

Come boldly, O believer, for despite the whisperings of satan and the doubtings of thine own heart, thou art **greatly beloved**. Meditate on the exceeding greatness and faithfulness of divine love this evening, and so go to thy bed in peace.

Charles Spurgeon  
Morning and Evening Devotional - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Receive

Col 2:6... *as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord...*

The life of faith is represented as receiving. An act which implies the very opposite of anything like merit. It is simply the **acceptance of a gift**. As the earth drinks in the rain, as the sea receives the streams, as night accepts light from the stars, so we, giving nothing, **partake freely of the grace** of God.

The saints are not, by nature, wells, or streams, they are but cisterns into which the living water flows. They are empty vessels into which God pours His salvation. The idea of receiving implies a sense of realization, making the matter a reality. One cannot very well receive a shadow. We receive that which is substantial. So is it in the life of faith, **Christ becomes real** to us.

While we are without faith, Jesus is a mere name to us. A person who lived a long while ago, so long ago that His life is only a history to us now! By an act of faith Jesus becomes a real person in the consciousness of our heart. But receiving also means grasping or getting possession of. The **thing which I receive become my own**. I appropriate to myself that which is given.

When I receive Jesus, He becomes my Saviour, so mine that neither life nor death shall be able to rob me of Him. All this is to **receive Christ**... to take Him as God's **free gift**... to realize Him in my heart, and to appropriate Him as mine.

Salvation may be described as the blind receiving sight, the deaf receiving hearing, the dead receiving life... but we have not only received these blessings, we have **received Christ Jesus Himself**.

It is true that He gave us life from the dead. He gave us pardon of sin. He gave us imputed righteousness. These are all precious things, but we are not content with them. We have received Christ Himself. The Son of God has been poured into us, and we have received Him, and appropriated Him. What a heartfelt Jesus must be, for heaven itself cannot contain Him!

Charles Spurgeon  
Morning and Evening Devotional - Nov 8<sup>th</sup>