

Open Before Christmas: Four Gifts That Show Jesus Your Love

Showing Jesus My Love

By Serving My Neighbors and Those in Need

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Series Truth:

Society and the church have agreed that the giving of gifts is the socially acceptable way to celebrate the birth of Christ. But what gifts, and to whom should they be given, and is this what Jesus taught us? Could our current practice have more to do with our acceptance of hidden worldviews than with the clear and convincing teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? I believe so! Therefore, over the next four weeks we will endeavor to discover what gifts those who claim His name should give Jesus every day and not just at Christmas.

Series Text:

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but **to do justice**, and **to love** kindness, and **to walk** humbly with your God?
Micah 6:6-8 (ESV)

- One does justice.
 - One loves with kindness.
 - One walks in humility.

²⁸ even as **the Son of Man came** not to be served but **to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28 (ESV)

① Jesus is the m_____ for our service

⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

⁴³ **Not so with you.** Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and **whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.** ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Mark 10:42-45

- Service is the m_____ for advancing in Jesus' kingdom.
- Servants see the n_____ of people and set out to meet those needs.
- S_____ requires that I submit my will to God and obey His will for my life.
- Jesus e_____ the servant role to His disciples.

The Ministry of the Towel

² The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.
John 13:2

- Jesus s_____ His disciples each the same.

³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;
John 13:3

- Jesus can serve Judas because He knows His p_____, p_____ and p_____.

⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" John 13:4-9

Jesus did for their feet what He would do for their hearts:

Clean them!

- They had dirty feet. Does anyone here have a heart soiled by sin?
- They had bruised feet. Is anyone's heart bruised by the wrong inflicted by another?
- They had tired feet. Do you feel tired of heart in doing good when it seems so useless?

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "**Do you understand what I have done for you?**" he asked them. ¹³"**You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.**

¹⁴**Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.** John 13:12-14

- No task is too d_____ in the service of one another.

¹⁵**I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.** John 13:15

- We serve one a_____ just as J_____ served the disciples.

¹⁶**I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.**

John 13:16

- We need to be r_____ of our true position in the kingdom.

¹⁷**Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.** John 13:17

We each need to recognize that we have both a Primary and a Secondary ministry in the church:

- My p_____ ministry commitment should be in the area where I am gifted and make my u_____ contribution.
- My s_____ ministry includes serving in any other area of the body when I am needed and can make a g_____ contribution.

The b_____ of biblical leadership is the willingness to go anywhere and do anything for fellow believers.

- According to Jesus, in the final analysis the g_____ of one's faith is determined by the genuineness of one's s_____ (Matthew 25:31-46).

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but **made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.** Philippians 2:5-7