

Open Before Christmas: Four Gifts That Show Jesus Your Love

Showing Jesus My Love by Sharing My Testimony

December 12, 2010

Pastor Warner Smith

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.

²⁶ "So **have no fear** of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not **fear** those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather **fear** him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ **Fear** not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² **So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.** ³⁴ "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man **against** his father, and a daughter **against** her mother, and a daughter-in-law **against** her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not **worthy** of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not **worthy** of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not **worthy** of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:26–39 (ESV)

²⁰ for **we cannot stop speaking about** what we have seen and heard."
Acts 4:20 (NASB)

¹⁶ ...I have appeared to you, to appoint you **a minister and a witness** not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;
Acts 26:16b (NASB)

⁴⁸ "**You [Ya'll] are witnesses of these things.**
Luke 24:48 (NASB)

⁸ **but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NASB)

Truths Concerning Your Testimony

1. You share who you a _____
2. Sharing Christ is a p _____, not an e _____
3. The desire to share comes from an a _____, not an a _____
4. Everyone needs a m _____
5. Developing others who will also grow and share is not a c _____ issue, it's a l _____ issue

Characteristics of Evangelism Today

- Reaching the unchurched is a low priority for most c _____
- Reaching the unchurched is a low priority for most i _____ Christians
- The biblical understanding of l _____ has changed
- Evangelism methods are relatively i _____
- Evangelism approaches focus on: d _____-making rather than d _____-making
- Making disciples is more about spiritual growth than numerical g _____
- Evangelism is d _____ much but practiced l _____

Is the church a hotel for s _____ or a hospital for s _____?

Characteristics of Evangelism in the Early Church

- Reaching the unchurched was a high p _____ for the church

- Reaching the unchurched was a high priority for i _____ Christians
- The understanding of lostness was f _____ in the minds of believers
- Evangelism was designed to make d _____
- Evangelism f _____ on disciple-making rather than decision-making
- Evangelism and discipleship go h _____ in h _____
- The whole gospel and its i _____ were presented
- Evangelism was the h _____ of the church

Two things we can't do in heaven:

s _____ and w _____

We must reach people w _____ they are

When a person dies and goes to heaven, who gets the credit? J _____

When a person dies and goes to hell, who gets the credit? T _____/M _____

How To Share Your Personal Testimony

Your testimony should be c _____, c _____, p _____, & up-to-d _____.

Avoid boasting of pre-Christian s _____, using r _____ words, attempting to give them the w _____ Bible at once, and preaching to them (“s _____ form”).

Use the Example of the Apostle Paul in Acts 26:4-5, 9-23

- What my life was like b _____ I received Christ.
- How I r _____ my need for Christ.
- How I r _____ Christ.
- How Christ has h _____ me and is h _____ me day by day.