

Sermon Series: The Christian Reason for the Season

Sermon Title: The Gift that Keeps on Giving from God the Father

Sermon Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

Sermon Purpose: To challenge the hearer to not lose the Christian meaning of Christmas in the commercialization and paganization of the Christian season.

Sermon Proposition: There are four components of the Father's Gift.

Introduction: Isaiah 8:19-9:7

"We have no superstitious regard for times and seasons. Certainly we do not believe in the present ecclesiastical arrangement called Christmas. First, because we do not believe in any mass at all, but abhor it whether it be sung in Latin or in English. Secondly, because we find no Scriptural warrant whatever for observing any day as the birthday of the Saviour; and consequently, it's observance is a superstition, because not of divine authority. Superstition has fixed most positively the day of our Saviour's birth, although there is no possibility of discovering when it occurred. It was not till the middle of the third century that any part of the Church celebrated the birth of our Lord; and it was not till long after the western Church had set the example, that the eastern adopted it. Because the day is not known, probably the fact is that the 'holy' days were arranged to fit in with the heathen festivals. We venture to assert that if there be any day in the year of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which our Saviour was born, it is the 25th of December. Regarding not the day, let us give God thanks for the gift of His dear Son.

"How absurd to think we could do it in the spirit of the world, with a Jack Frost clown, a deceptive worldly Santa Claus, and a mixed program of sacred truth with fun, deception and fiction. If it be possible to honour Christ in the giving of gifts, I cannot see how while the gift, giver, and recipient are all in the spirit of the world. The Catholics and high Church Episcopalians may have their Christmas one day in 365, but we have a Christ gift the entire year" (24 December 1871).

"Upright men strove to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts, the apostasy went on, till the Church, with the exception of a small remnant, was submerged under pagan superstition. that Christmas is a pagan festival, is beyond all doubt. The time of the year, and the ceremonies with which it is celebrated, prove its origin."

"Those who follow the custom of observing Christmas, follow not the Bible but pagan ceremonies."
(Charles Spurgeon)

- I. The **Promised** Gift. V.6a
- II. The **Pre-Incarnated** Gift. V.6b
- III. The **Potentate** Gift. V.7a
- IV. The **Providential** Gift. V.7b

I. The **promised** gift of God the Father. V.6a

A. The **problem** given by God the Father.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

B. The **prophecy** given by God the Father.

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

While it is true that Jews had cherished but a high spiritual ideal of the divine monarch, they might have hailed many as their Messiah, deliverer, Savior, for they had many great and good kings. But in the very purity of this ideal they doomed themselves to disappointment, until in the fullness of time a King, the true King came not with power and splendor but "lowly" and riding upon a colt.

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

But Isaiah the Prophet foresaw Him some 700 years before His birth.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

II. The Pre-Incarnated Gift. V.6b

Because Jesus is the Pre-Incarnated Christ, several important truths must be realized.

1. God, and only God alone initiates the salvation of humanity.
2. God, and only God alone has the power to give life to the physically dead and doomed.
3. God, and only God alone has the power to give life to the spiritually dead.
Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace,
4. God, and only God alone is suggested in the Old Testament, and clearly taught in the New Testament as both:
 - a) Humanity
 - b) Deity

III. The Potentate Gift. V.7a

Jesus's names which can be referenced by three titles that describes His governmental authority and rulership. The lofty titles and qualities are expressed.

1. The Wonderful Counselor – He is the supreme fountain of wisdom. His reign will be filled with exceptional and distinguished wisdom. "Man does not counsel Deity, Deity counsels me."
Romans 11:34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"
2. The Mighty God – Divine might is the idea. This Christ is a Champion, who victoriously conquers all foes and enemies. (**Revelation 19:11-21**)
3. The Everlasting Father – Better translation "A Father forever" this speaks of His constant care for His people. The Father of Eternity never forsakes His people.
John 10:34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"'?"
4. The Prince of Peace – This is the provided provision of a rich, harmonious, and positive well-being during His reign. He provides past peace, present peace, and future peace.
(**Revelation 19:17-20:4**)

Matthew 10:34-36 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. **35** "For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law"; **36** "and a man's enemies *will be* those of his *own* household.'

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

IV. The Providential Gift. V.7b

A. The dynasty of the King's Kingdom.

2 Samuel 7:12-16 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. **15** "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **16** "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.""

1. Through Joseph the legal right to David's throne.
2. Through Mary the line right to David's through. (**Luke 4**)

B. The development of the King's Kingdom.

The Messiah's Kingdom will be marked by an increase of peace and blessings. Peace will be the result, because all enemies will be destroyed and Satan will be bound in hell. This is a common theme of the Old Testament and message of the prophets.

C. The duration of the King's Kingdom.

The Kingdom will have no end. There is 1000 years earthly reign, but Christ will deliver up the Kingdom to the Father, and the reign will last throughout eternity. There has been no reigning descendants of David since 586 BC; the throne is currently vacant.

D. The definitive of the King's Kingdom.

How will this all be achieved? "The zeal or power of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

Revelation 18:21; Revelation 20:1-15

Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.