
Sermon Notes

December 25, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

**Who is Jesus?
Jesus is the Gift**
2 Corinthians 8:9

Giving Gifts

- ❖ The season of giving
- ❖ Giving gifts at Christmas is our human way of reflecting the joy God has in giving His great love gift to His people

The Ultimate Example of Giving

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 8:9 is a jewel encased in the setting of the verses that surround it
 - a doctrinal treasure
 - its scope is vast, its significance profound
 - no difficult or confusing words
 - "...but with an eternity you may never understand all that it communicates." (John MacArthur)
- ❖ Love expresses itself in generous giving, and Jesus is the single greatest example of that truth

- Jesus shows the greatest love because He gives the greatest gift
- Jesus wants to make US rich
- in order to make US rich, He needs to make Himself poor!

Three Points to Ponder

- ❖ Jesus was rich
 - in what way was Jesus rich?
 - Jesus Christ, the 2nd person of the Trinity, eternally God
 - living in the splendor of heaven
 - having all power, authority, sovereignty and all glory, honor, majesty
 - Jesus is rich in the sense that He is God, possessing eternity and all that it contains
- ❖ Jesus became poor
 - what does it mean that Jesus became poor?
 - this is not a commentary on Jesus' economic status
 - the God of the universe is born of a woman
 - Jesus is made in the likeness of sinful flesh
 - Jesus is made, for a little while, lower than the angels

Personal Reflection

- Philippians 2:6-8
 - eternal God becomes poor by humbling Himself, becoming human, being executed and dying on the cross
- ❖ That we might become rich
 - how are we made rich?
 - we are made spiritually and eternally rich
 - Jesus makes us rich with the same riches He possesses
 - though once we were poor, though we had nothing with which to commend ourselves to God, now we are rich with the riches of Jesus

Quotation from Augustine of Hippo:

Our Lord came down from life to suffer death
the Bread came down, to hunger
the Way came down, on the way to weariness;
the Fount came down, to thirst.

He so loved that, for our sake,
He was made man in time
although through Him all times were made.
He was made man, who made man.
He was created of a mother whom He created.
He was carried by hands that He formed.
He cried in the manger in wordless infancy,
He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.

1. Do you love giving gifts? Why or why not?
2. How does Jesus' ultimate example of giving challenge you when it comes to loving and serving others?
3. Have you received the riches that Jesus made Himself poor to give you? How do you know?