The PRESENTS of God - Matthew 6:25-34
From the Series, Topical
By Pastor Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

No matter how generous you may be this Christmas or at any other time, you will never be able to out-give God! His lavish kindness can be plainly observed, but it is too often overlooked. Let’s consider during this season just how openhanded God is to us and the nature of some of His presents that He gives to us who are His children.

OUTLINE

I. The Gift of Carefree Living (v. 25)

II. The Gift of Gracious Provision
   A. Compared to Lower Creations (vv. 26-30)
   B. Compared to Other People (vv. 31-32)
   C. Proportional to Vertical Focus (v. 33)

III. The Gift of Supervised Trouble (v. 34)

Gift Enhancers:

1. Get up on Christmas morning and have a time of devotions with your family or friends (even if it's by phone). Thank God for His indescribable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15) and thank Him for the gifts He has given.

2. Smile a bit more this Christmas season! You've got every reason to be joyful—God is your Father, Provider, and Protector.

3. Pray for a clearer and more passionate Vertical Focus.

DETAILED NOTES

Gift-giving at Christmas is a part of our culture, but we know Christmas is not about the gifts, it's about The Gift. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15) We are looking at a section from the Sermon on the Mount. It would fit in between chapters 5-6 of the Gospel of John. The Sermon on the Mount is a mountain of a sermon; a monumental sermon; the greatest sermon ever preached by the greatest One who ever lived. It is the kingdom manifesto; the King speaking to subjects of the kingdom regarding the ethics of the kingdom. "And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matthew 7:28-29).

I. The Gift of Carefree Living (v. 25)
   A. Do not worry
      1. Stop an action that is already going on
      2. Jesus tells them three times in the passage
   B. Worry
      1. μεριμνάω - merimnaó from meridzo (split or be divided) and nos (mind) - James 1:8
      2. "Worry is interest paid on trouble before it comes due." - William Inge
      3. Tyrant of modern society: the burdensome living that comes from anxiety
      4. According to the National Institute of Mental Health: anxiety is the most common mental health issue; 40 million Americans (18 and older) have an anxiety disorder
   C. God wants us to live a carefree life-Philippians 4:6
   D. University of Wisconsin study:
      1. 40% of what we worry about will never happen
      2. 30% of what we worry about are things from the past that we can't change
      3. 12% are criticisms made by others, mostly untrue
      4. 10% health
      5. 8% are legitimate
   E. "A relaxed attitude lengthens life" (Proverbs 14:30a)
   F. Premise: Jesus is to be the Master of your life
I. The Gift of Gracious Provision

A. Compared to Lower Creations (vv. 26-30)
   1. Birds of the air
      a. Consider what it cost God to make you His child - John 3:16
      b. He spared no expense in saving you; He will care for you - Romans 8:32
      c. You will never starve - Psalm 37:25
   2. Wildflowers
      a. Thrown in oven to begin fires
      b. Temporary, but we have an eternal nature

B. Compared to Other People (vv. 31-32)
   1. Worry characteristic of unbelievers
   2. Ἠθνος - ethnos - Gentiles, peoples, pagan peoples
   3. Unbelievers have no claim to God’s supply; this world is all they have
   4. A child of God consumed with worry sends the message there is no difference in believers and unbelievers
   5. How does what I believe affect the way I live?

C. Proportional to Vertical Focus (v. 33)
   1. Seek first the kingdom of God
   2. πρῶτον - protos - first, a matter of priority
   3. These things: food and clothing
   4. If you focus on Jesus, He’ll take care of the rest
   5. Like Paul: “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24).

II. The Gift of Supervised Trouble (v. 34)

A. Sovereign nature of God: you’ll have grace tomorrow for tomorrow’s troubles
B. God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able - 1 Corinthians 10:13
C. God’s mercies are new every morning - Lamentations 3:22-23

III. Application

1. Realize God wants your life freed from the shackles of care and worry.
2. Exercise a thankful heart for the presence and presents of God.
3. Personalize God’s care.
5. Don’t sweat the small stuff.

Greek terms: μεριμνάω - merimnaó from meridzo (split or be divided) and nos (mind); Ἠθνος - ethnos - Gentiles, peoples, pagan peoples; πρῶτον - protos - first, a matter of priority

Figures referenced: Billy Graham, Roy Gustafson, Charles Macy, Dr. William Evans, William Inge, Eugene Peterson
Cross references: Psalm 24:1; Psalm 37:25; Proverbs 14:30; Lamentations 3:22-23; Matthew 6:24; Matthew 7:28-29; John 3:16; Acts 20:24; Romans 8:32; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 9:15; Philippians 4:6; James 1:8

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