

GIFTS FOR JESUS

**WHAT DO YOU GIVE TO
A GUY WHO HAS EVERYTHING?**

THE THREE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

Matthew 2:1-12

THREE GIFTS FOR JESUS

Micah 6:6-8

Food for Thought for the week of December 25, 2011

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. During this weekend's teaching, Chris and Larry differentiated between gifts we want and gifts we need. As we heard in Micah 6:8, more important than any gift we give or receive, are the gifts we can give to God, specifically justice, mercy and walking humbly. What guidance do the following verses give us in how we can be just, merciful, and walk humbly according to God's plan?

Justice:

Proverbs 22:22-23

*Do not exploit the poor because they are poor
and do not crush the needy in court,
[23] for the Lord will take up their case
and will plunder those who plunder them. [NIV]*

Proverbs 29:7

*The righteous care about justice for the poor,
but the wicked have no such concern. [NIV]*

Isaiah 1:17

*learn to do right!
Seek justice,
encourage the oppressed.
Defend the cause of the fatherless,
plead the case of the widow. [NIV]*

Jeremiah 22:3

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. [NIV]

Mercy:

Matthew 23:23

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. [NIV]

Luke 6:27-36

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, [28] bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. [29] If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. [30] Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. [31] Do to others as you would have them do to you.

[32] "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. [33] And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. [34] And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. [35] But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and

you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. [36] Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. [NIV]

Zechariah 7:8-10

And the word of the Lord came again to Zechariah: [9] "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. [10] Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.' [NIV]

Walking Humbly:

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. [NIV]

James 1:21

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. [NIV]

1 Peter 5:5-6

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

*"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble."*

[6] Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. [NIV]