

All I Want For Christmas...

Matthew 9:1-8

I. What do you want from Jesus?

- A. A group of men carry their disabled friend to Jesus.
1. They have heard about the miracles.
 - (a) Perhaps one of them has witnessed a healing.
 - (b) So, they are excited.
 - (c) They are motivated.
 - (d) This is their opportunity to see their brother healed.
 2. Jesus sees that they have faith.
 - (a) They are trusting that Jesus is who they need.
 3. Jesus says, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."
 - (a) In that moment, did their hearts sink?
 - (b) Were they disappointed?
 - (c) "That's not what we came here for, Jesus."
 - (d) Our brother needs to walk.
 4. Fortunately, Jesus isn't making an either/or proposition.
 - (a) He's not saying, "You can be healed or forgiven. Pick one."
 - (b) Jesus plans to heal his body and his spirit.
 - (c) But what if he was offering a choice?
 - (d) Which one would he choose? How about you?
 - (e) What do you want from Jesus?
 5. Given that choice, many people would choose to walk.
 - (a) Yet, forgiveness of one's sin is clearly more valuable.
 - (b) Without forgiveness there is not eternal life.
 - (c) You'd be choosing short-term gain and long-term pain.
 - (d) Jesus asked, "What good is it if a man should gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

II. Sometimes we don't accurately value what God wants for us.

- A. Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life" (zoé).
1. Zoé is spiritual life, God's eternal spiritual life.
 - (a) We were made to find satisfaction in our Maker.
 - (b) The fullness that we long for can only be found in him.
 2. This satisfaction of soul is something that we are hungry for.
 - (a) But often we are not consciously aware of that hunger.
 - (b) Sometimes you have to taste something to be aware.
 - (c) So God says, "taste and see that the Lord is good."
 3. It's not talking about the moral goodness of God.
 - (a) It's talking about experiencing God being good.
 - (b) When you eat a sumptuous food, "Wow! That is good!"
 - (c) Your tastebuds experience it. You taste its goodness.
 - (d) Psalm 63: "My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods."
 4. What is he referring to? The presence of God (Ps.63:1).
 - (a) Vs. 3: "...your love is better than life..." (physical life).

- B. Jesus said that we would have a spring to tap into (John 4:13-14).
 1. But do you know how to tap into the spring?
 2. Do you know how to drink living water? (I Corinthians 12:13)
 3. Jesus connected it to worship (John 4: 21, 23-24).
 - (a) We are the temple. In worship the Spirit fills the temple.
 - (b) Living water is poured out and we drink (experience the soul-satisfying goodness of God).
- C. Jesus spoke of being filled by doing the will of God (John 4:31-36)
 1. He is talking about doing ministry in the fullness of the Spirit.
 - (a) He describes it as his food.
 - (b) He is talking about satisfaction of soul.
 2. God intends this to be food for us, too.
 - (a) When we bear witness in the fullness of the Spirit it is satisfying to our souls.
 - (b) This is an experience of his goodness that he wants for you, but if you never speak you miss out.
 3. The woman in the story is a good example.
 - (a) She is so excited about Jesus that she forgets two things:
 1. The villagers don't like her (she's too excited to care).
 2. She forgets that she came to get water.
 - (b) She runs to the village and her witness sparks revival!
 - (c) She is eating the food Jesus talked about!
- D. God's transformation of our lives is satisfying! (Psalm 17:15)
 1. "seeing" is added in translation.
 2. ESV is more accurate, "I will be satisfied with your likeness."
 3. Hebrew for "likeness": something fashioned out as a shape; embodiment; similitude."
 4. It is not referring to God. He is not similar to himself.
 5. It is referring to his likeness in us for "we will be like him."
 - (a) That will be satisfying, and if it's satisfying then, it is now.
 - (b) Not in a prideful way. It is God's work of grace in us.
 - (c) It is satisfying because our character is becoming good.
 6. This is not a passive process. God calls us to pursue him!
 - (a) He calls us to pursue godliness, cooperate with transformation!
 7. One of the main ways we do that is by being with him.
 - (a) We need to learn to enjoy being in his presence.
 - (b) How satisfying would your marriage be if you were never with your spouse?

III. We glorify God when we enjoy being with him, when his goodness is appreciated!

- A. A worship challenge: Memorize psalm 84. Begin with 84:1-2.
1. Sit with God and meditate on the loveliness of his dwelling.
 2. Feel your soul yearning for his presence, crying out for him!
 3. Stay there until you experience his goodness! Linger there!