



Advent Conspiracy: Give More

Our Christmas model

- **Worship More**
- **Spend Less**
- **Give More**
- **Love All**

Giving more does not mean spend more money. It means give more of yourself to others.

Jesus is our model. Jesus did not give by going to Wal-Mart. He did not use his Costco Membership. Jesus did not look for the blue light specials at K-Mart. He was not some wealthy merchant like some “name it claim it” preachers insist. He came from a poor family (Remember his parents offered pigeons at his dedication), yet that did not stop him from giving of himself. We may not have a ton of money in our wallet, we may be so poor that we cannot pay attention, .but we can give, and it can mean a lot.

It is easier to give someone possessions than it is yourself. It costs us less.

I. **Jesus Gave himself Incarnationally**

Philippians 2: 5-8

⁵ **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,** ⁶ **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,** ⁷ **but made himself nothing,** taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

The incarnation should have an impact on how we view Jesus. He could have just zapped us and given us salvation. However, he gave up everything to become a missionary.

- He was born of a woman
- He learned our language
- He learned our customs
- He became our friend
- He demonstrated what a spirit-filled life should look like.
- He shared about the importance of being right with God.
- He suffered for us
- He died for us

The love of people in a culture motivated him to walk with us so he could sympathize.

What do you see?

- a. Do you see a culture that with people you ignore. You're not living like Jesus
- b. Do you see people lost in a culture that has deceived them
- c. What are you willing to do to help people who are deceived?

Jesus gave himself Incarnationally

II. Jesus gave Himself Purposefully

John 18:37

”³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. **For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.** Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

- Jesus lived his life with precision. His life modeled what should be important in our life
- Our Cultures Theology: Believe what you want; Keep it to Yourself
- Many Christians follow the Cultures Theology that teaches truth is relevant
- Truth mattered to Jesus. Speaking Truth meant not allowing deception to win
- Our culture wants to separate the man from the message. **Not Jesus**

Jesus said, “for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.”

How will people remember you?

- He or she was a nice person
- He or she respected everyone's beliefs.
- He or she kept quiet.

- He or she recognized their identity was not what they did for a living, no matter how prominent a physician or Lawyer, or successful entrepreneur they became. They were not recognized for their position, but for their purpose., to share the message of Christ.

Multnomah Missionary died on the Mission Field. She told her friends, she was willing to die for Jesus. That is how we remember her. She now has a scholarship fund set up in her name for prospective missionaries.

Are you living your life for yourself, or with Jesus purpose.

Jesus did not come to earth to focus on himself. Neither should we. He gave himself purposefully.

III. Jesus gave Himself Relationally

Mark 1:40-42

⁴⁰ And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ **Moved with pity**, he stretched out his hand and **touched him** and said to him, "I will; be clean." ⁴² And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

The Misperceptions about Leprosy.

- People are cursed that have it
- You don't get it by touching someone
- It is not very contagious
- It spreads over an extended period of time, living together, for 4-8 years
- This man probably had not been touched for a long time.

People need to be touched to feel important.

- My step dad in the hospital. He wants to be touched

Are there people in your life you treat as if they have leprosy?

We learn from Jesus the importance to give ourselves relationally.

IV. Jesus Gave Himself Positionally

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus became sin for us. The text says, he knew no sin AND he became sin, that is he took our sins upon him. Why? So that we may become the righteousness of God.

One of my favorite Eddy Murphy movies is Trading Places. For those who have not seen it, the theme of the movie is when Eddie Murphy, a homeless man, trades places with Dan Aykroyd, a millionaire, through the wager made by two rich folks.

What this verse is saying is that Jesus traded places with you, he became sin, so you would become righteous, like he.

Conclusion: This Christmas give people your time; not more things. Model Jesus.