

SERMON DATE: March 21, 2021

SERMON SERIES: Giving Back to the One Who Gave

SERMON TITLE: The Father Who Gave His Best

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Ephesians 2:1-7

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Gift giving can be a tricky undertaking. We often try to determine what the right gift should be. We consider what the recipient's likes or preferences are, and even inquire of other to help in determining if the gift is right. Most often desiring for the gift that is being given to have a lasting and meaning effect, with the hope the recipient will be impacted in a significant way. God gave His son Jesus as a gift for all of mankind, and unlike any other gift that can be given, we can be assured that this gift can and will have significant impact and effect for a lifetime and even for an eternity.

INTRODUCTION

Lilly Endowment Inc., headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, is one of the world's largest private philanthropic foundations and among the largest endowments in the United States. Founded in 1937, the Endowment has over \$10 billion dollars (\$10.29 billion) in assets and an annual Revenue of over \$831 million (\$831.5 million). Established by Josiah K. (J. K.) Lilly Sr. and his sons, Eli Jr. and Josiah Jr. (Joe), with an initial gift of Eli Lilly and Company stock. Throughout their lifetime, and upon their deaths, each of the three founders of the endowment bequest millions of their fortune to the endowment. Their gifts have impacted hundreds of

SERMON NOTES

thousands lives over the years as each year the Lilly Endowment gives away over \$564 million local and state efforts in community development, education, and Christianity. Their stories generosity can truly be considered “gifts that keep on giving”, however, their gifts although they have had tremendous reciprocal giving impact, still shrink in comparison to the gift the Lord Jesus Christ gave on the cross for the sins of the world.

POINT #1: Made Us Alive

Sins (Gr.-*harmartia*) a failing to hit the mark

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Are we humbled with gratitude that the Lord forgives our sins, or have we developed an attitude of entitlement knowing God forgives sin through Christ.

Point #2: God's Rich Mercy Toward Us

Ephesians 2:4-5 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

Gift of New Mercies Every Morning

Lamentations 3:22-24

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Gift of Access to the Throne Grace

Hebrews 4:14-16

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Threefold Office of Christ

- **Prophet** (proclaims God's Word)
- **Priest** (offers redeeming sacrifice to God)
- **King** (rules in God's name and to God's honor)

Point #3: Given Us A Seat of Honor

Ephesians 2:5-6 *even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*

Joint Heirs – Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

Christ Has the Most Honored Seat – At the Right Hand of the Father**Point #4: The Gift of Future Hope**

Ephesians 2:7 *that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

1 Peter 1:3-6

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1 Peter 1:13

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

When Mercy Found Me

Songwriters: Jeffrey Thomas / Joshua Rhett

I can't count the broken roads
I've been down
But all I know
Something had to give
Something had to give
'Cause living my life so wild and free
Finally caught up
Oh it left me broken, left me hopeless
But that's where I met Jesus
In one moment everything changed
Who I was got washed away
When mercy found me
My Savior's arms were open wide
And I felt love for the very first time
When mercy found me
When mercy found me
All those days, all those doubts
They don't seem to matter now
His grace is all I need
His grace is all I need
And the chains that I was in before
They don't hold me anymore
His love has rescued me
His love has set me free
In one moment everything changed
Who I was got washed away
When mercy found me