

WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT

Micah 5:4-5

December 21, 2008, Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. What would you say Christmas is all about?
 - 1. Giving?
 - 2. Helping Others?
 - 3. Family?
 - 4. Football?
 - 5. One of the weirdest ideas came from one of Jay Leno's Headlines TV segments on the "Tonight Show". He showed an ad in a local newspaper for the "Center for Dental Implants". The ad says "The Gift of Chewing Is What the Holidays Are All About"
- B. This might come as a surprise, but the Bible has a different idea about what Christmas is all about.
 - 1. The prophet Micah foretold where Jesus would be born—Micah 5:2-3.
 - 2. In vv. 4-5, Micah answers the question of why Jesus was born. What did he come to do?
 - 3. Using the metaphor of a shepherd, Micah tells us Jesus came to do at least three things.

I. FIRST, JESUS CAME TO GIVE US STRENGTH

- A. This is what Micah said—v.4
- B. While attempting to rescue a fellow soldier, Bob Wieland lost both his legs in Vietnam. He had dreamed of being a professional baseball player after the war, but that dream was gone forever. Many men in this situation are overcome with bitterness, but Bob wasn't. He said, "I lost me legs, not my heart", and he continued his quest for athletic achievement. He walks on his hands now, and has completed a three year "Walk Across America." He has participated in the "Race Across America" on a custom-made bicycle, and in the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon. He can bench press an amazing 507 pounds. How does he do it? He said that he learned to cast all his cares on Jesus (1 Peter 5:7), and he learned how "the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." In his words, "I do the best I can to apply the Word of God to my life, because I know it works."
 - 1. This is the kind of strength Jesus offers.
 - 2. He promises we will never be alone, no matter what.
 - 3. If you're facing a challenge right now there is someone bigger than you are who will give you the strength to face anything.

II. SECOND, JESUS CAME TO GIVE US SECURITY

- A. We live in a very insecure world. We look to many things to find security—jobs, investments, relationships, even government.
 - 1. However, our world can come crashing down any moment.
 - 2. One simple word can change our lives forever. Words like, cancer, divorce, or downsizing.
- B. Micah says Jesus came to give us security—v.4
 - 1. Jesus offers us the security of knowing that he is in control.
 - 2. What is God saying here? "I will take care of you. You are safe with me"—John 10:27-28.
 - 3. When Social Security was begun, it promised to offer retirees security. Today we're being told it may not be there when future retirees need it. Thank God, though, Jesus will be.

III. THIRD, JESUS CAME TO GIVE US SERENITY

- A. Have you seen the Seinfeld TV show where George's dad, Frank Costanza, learns the relaxation technique of saying "Serenity Now"? Frank's doctor told him every time his blood pressure starts to rise, simply say, "Serenity Now", He's never able to get a grip on it. George's friend, Lloyd, who used to be in a mental institution tells him, "Serenity Now" doesn't work. That's what put me in the institution. It's "Serenity Now", Insanity later."
- B. Peace can't be had by just saying "Serenity Now." Neither is it found in alcohol, drugs, overeating, or jumping from relationship to relationship.
- C. Peace can only be found in Jesus.
 - 1. This is what Micah says—v.5.
 - 2. This is also what the angels sang at Jesus' birth—Luke 2:14.
 - 3. This is what Jesus promised—John 14:27.
 - 4. We may not be able to experience peace in the world around us but we can experience his peace within us.

CONCLUSION

- A. This is what Christmas is all about.
 - 1. Not giving
 - 2. Not helping others
 - 3. Not family
 - 4. Not football.
- B. Its celebrating why Jesus was born.
 - 1. To bring us strength
 - 2. To bring us security
 - 3. To bring us serenity