

## **NOTHING MORE TO GIVE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

One morning this week in my quiet time, I sang the song, "Yet not I", written by: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson and Michael Farren. It's a true, modern-day hymn with beautiful meaningful words. The first verse goes like this:

*"What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace"*

What powerful words, reminding us of who Jesus truly is and what He means to us. What truly stood out was the line: "*There is no more for heaven now to give*", hence the title of this message, "Nothing more to give".

Let's spend some time this morning, focusing on this amazing statement.

### **MESSAGE**

#### **In preparation for this message, I read this story:**

Pete Richards was a lonely man who owned and operated a gift shop. The little front window was loaded with old-fashioned things: bracelets and locket, gold rings and silver boxes; images of jade and ivory, porcelain figurines.

One Christmas Eve, a little girl was standing outside. It appeared that she was looking for something very special. Finally, she entered the store. Behind the counter stood Pete,

"Mister, would you please let me look at that string of blue beads in the window?" Pete took the string of beads out of the window and spread it out on the counter. "They're just perfect," said the child. "Will you wrap them up pretty for me, please?"

Pete asked, "Are you buying these for someone?" "They're for my big sister. She takes care of me. This will be the first Christmas since our mom died.

She wanted to buy the best gift for her big sister. That blue bead necklace would be the perfect gift for her!

"How much money do you have?" asked Pete. She took a small paper bag out of her coat pocket and poured out a handful of pennies on the counter. "I emptied my piggy bank," she explained. Pete Richards looked at her thoughtfully. Then he carefully drew back the necklace. The price tag was visible to him... but not to her. How could he tell her that she didn't have enough money?

"Just a minute," he said and went to the back of the store. Over his shoulder he called: "What's your name?" "Jean Grace", she replied. When Pete returned to where Jean Grace waited, a package lay in his hand, wrapped in red paper and tied with a green ribbon. "There you are," he said. "Don't lose it." She smiled over her shoulder as she ran out the door.

Through the window Pete watched her go, while sadness flooded his thoughts. Something about Jean Grace and her string of beads had stirred him to the depths of grief that would not stay buried. The child's hair was wheat yellow, her eyes sea-blue! Once upon a time, Pete had been in love with a girl. That girl had hair of that same yellow and with large eyes just as blue. And that necklace would have been her Christmas present. But there had come a snowy night— a truck skidding on a slippery road— and the life was crushed out of his dream. Since then, Pete had lived in isolation with his grief. The blue eyes of this little girl had reminded him of what he had lost.

When the last customer had gone on Christmas Eve, Pete sighed with relief. It was over for another year. But for Pete Richards the night was not quite over.

Just as Pete was getting ready to close up the shop the door opened and a young woman hurried in. Her hair was golden yellow and her eyes were blue. Without speaking, she drew from her purse a package loosely unwrapped in its red paper and a bow of green ribbon with it. She opened the box and place the string of blue beads on the counter.

"Did this come from your shop?" she asked. Pete answered softly: "Yes, it did." "Are the stones real?" "Yes. Not the finest quality--but real." "Can you remember who it was you sold them to?" "She was a small girl. Her name was Jean Grace. She bought them for her older sister's Christmas present."

"How much are they worth?" "The price," he told her, "is always confidential between the seller and the customer." "But Jean has never had more than a few pennies. How could she pay for them?"

Pete answered the young woman's question this way. "She paid the biggest price anyone can ever pay," "She gave all she had."

She gave all she had!!!

**You see, its not about what you give, it's about your attitude in giving.**

Throughout the Bible, we read about God's generosity and love for mankind. He truly gives.

In Genesis one of the first things He gave Adam was a wife! He saw it was not good for Adam to be alone, so He took a rib from Adam and made Eve.

He also gave them food to eat and dominion which man subsequently lost through sin.

Right now, as the Jewish people celebrate the feast of Tabernacles, they celebrate how much God gave. He provided them with food, water, shelter and protection in the wilderness for 40 years!

God still gives and gives and gives. We read about it in Matthew 6:

**Matthew 6:31-33** (NKJV) "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

God gives and gives and gives!

### **BUT GOD GAVE MUCH, MUCH MORE**

**John 3:16** (NKJV) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**Romans 8:32** (NLT) Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

God created the universe. He created heaven and earth and everything in it. He created you and I. As we have seen, God gives and provides for us out of what He created. This is not difficult for Him. But when mankind sinned, and fell short of His glory, God couldn't give of His creation to save us. He had to give of Himself.

### **The Father Revealed**

**John 14:7-9** "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

When God gave Jesus, He gave of Himself. It may be hard to comprehend but we understand that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are 3 in 1!

This gives meaning to the words of the song: "*What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer There is no more for heaven now to give*".

When Father God gave Jesus, He gave us everything. He was like little Grace Jean emptying out that brown paper packet, shaking it out until there was

nothing left. Heaven may have amazing things, but Jesus is its greatest treasure. God could not give anything better than Jesus!

***Do we truly realise what an amazing, incomparable Grace Gift Jesus Christ our Redeemer truly is?***

## **JESUS GAVE IT ALL**

**Philippians 2:5-8** (NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus gave and gave until there was nothing more to give. In His own words we read, **John 15:13** (NKJV) "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Jesus gave the greatest measure of love by dying for us while we were yet sinners, His enemies. He gave up all the privileges of God in heaven and came to this earth a humble servant in human form.

***Jesus paid it all. Not only did heaven have nothing more to give, but there is also no longer a debt of sin to be paid, it's paid in full!***

## **WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO?**

**2 Corinthians 8:1-3**(NLT) Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. 2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. 3 For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

The church in Macedonia understood what it meant to give even when they could no longer afford to give.

Do you know someone who just gives and gives and gives until there is basically nothing left to give? There is a saying, "He would even give you the shirt off his back". That is true sacrificial giving!

I knew someone like that, my sister. She was incredibly generous. There were many people who she, and her husband Peter helped over the years. Cars, money, the list goes on. There was one lady that she assisted, providing accommodation and other needs for a long time, even when she could not afford it. At her memorial we remembered her words, "money is a tool of the earth". Money and possessions are tools we can use for God's glory.

But true giving is not just about money, the Macedonian church gave themselves to the Lord!

**2 Corinthians 8:3-5** (NLT) For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. 4 They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. 5 They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

- They first gave themselves to the Lord and His people.
- Then they gave sacrificially for the needs of the people.
- They never held back, giving far more than what they could afford.
- They did it out of a free will, not out of compulsion.
- They did what God wanted them to do!

***If heaven gave all it could give, If our Father loves us so much that He gave His only son, If Jesus gave up everything so that He could give up His very life for us, then surely our response must be the same as the words of the song, "More like Jesus" - If more of You, Means less of me, Take everything. We need to learn to give all of ourselves to the Lord, our heart, our desires, and yes, when required, even our finances.***

## **CONCLUSION**

**John 3:16** (NKJV) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The call this morning is to come to a new level of giving,

- Giving financially, even out of lack, giving more than we can afford.
- Giving of ourselves to others, our time, our resources our love.

Most importantly, let us give ourselves to the Lord! Heaven has nothing more to give. Like Paul the Apostle, let us count everything else as rubbish as he did in Philippians 3 for the sake of knowing Jesus. Let us humbly come and present "all of me" to our God and Father, to His amazing son, Jesus Christ, and to His precious Holy Spirit until we have "Nothing more to give".

