



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday Morning Sermon by Ray Reynolds
December 3, 2017

The Christmas Tree

Introduction: It is Christmas time! I want to share spiritual lessons we can learn through the Christmas season. I want us to see how everything connects back to the gospel story. Each of us have opportunities to talk about Christ during this holiday season and God has given us many visual reminders of His saving work. Jesus did a marvelous job teaching object lessons throughout His ministry. We need to learn from Him. Our text for today will be **Isaiah 53:1-6**. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Compassion - Lessons From Our Heart

- Our heart can be full of love for God (**Deuteronomy 6:5**).
- Our heart can have confidence (**Psalms 27:3**).
- Our heart can repent and change (**Psalms 51:17**).
- Our heart can be guarded (**Proverbs 4:23**).
- Our heart can be pure (**Matthew 5:8**).

II. Culture - Lessons From Our World

- Our culture does not value souls (**Mark 8:34-38**).
- Our culture does not know Jesus (**John 15:18**).
- Our culture does not know peace (**John 14:27**).
- Our culture does not know the gospel (**Acts 1:8**).
- Our culture does not have true wisdom (**I Corinthians 2:1-16**).

III. Commission - Lessons From Our Ministry

- Our ministry is our work (**Exodus 35:30-31**).
- Our ministry should be clear (**Luke 16:13**).
- Our ministry is how we use our gifts (**Romans 12:3-8**).
- Our ministry is a calling (**Ephesians 4:1**).
- Our ministry builds up the church (**Ephesians 4:11-16**).

Conclusion: What brought peace during the famous "Christmas Truce of 1914." Trees? Lights? Candles? Gifts? No. Only hope in Jesus Christ. Trees are a sign of hope to the Christian (**Acts 5:30, 10:39, 13:29, Galatians 3:13, I Peter 2:24**), but the real hope is in Jesus. This is a season for reflection and meditation. Think about good things (**Philippians 4:8**). If Christ is in CHRISTmas, at least He is being proclaimed to the world (**Philippians 1:15-18, Romans 14:6-9**). We get a glimpse of God during this time of year! How can we share the gospel story during Christmas? Will you share spiritual lessons you have learned? Have you received the gift of salvation through Jesus?