

Getting to Christmas 3  
Micah 5:2-5

- I. We're almost there. Christmas is almost here.
  - a. And still it finds us waiting. Getting to Christmas is hard work.
    - i. Especially knowing what we will find when we get there.
      1. Righteousness, peace, and knowledge of God.
      2. Salvation and safety.
    - ii. Getting to Christmas has been our theme this December and we've almost reached our goal.
  - b. Some families have a tradition of opening one present on Christmas eve.
    - i. My dad's house was this way.
      1. Opened one present.
      2. The parents picked out which one.
    - ii. By Christmas Eve the waiting had gotten to be too much.
      1. Opening one present was a way to let a little of the pressure off.
      2. It was a bit of a teaser so that you could stand the waiting for one more night.
  - c. Coincidentally, today is Christmas Eve.
    - i. Oh, sure; the church calendar says it's still the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, but for all practical purposes – it's Christmas Eve.
    - ii. And we've been waiting and watching and looking forward to today for awhile.
    - iii. So ... this morning let's take a look at two more presents that are waiting for us this Christmas.
- II. Strength is waiting.
  - a. In verse 4 it says, "He [*the Messiah*] will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God." {Micah 5:4}
  - b. This is a reminder to us of the source of our strength.
    - i. We live in His power.
    - ii. The more we remember that truth, the more we will experience God's blessing.
    - iii. Without God I can do nothing, but with God all things are possible!
  - c. God's strength is given to us [imparted to us] through Jesus.
    - i. Strength for guidance.
      1. To shepherd His flock – verse 4.
      2. To provide guidance – direction, purpose, destination, protection.
      3. These are the things that a shepherd does.
    - ii. Let's look at Psalm 23. Here is a picture of the Lord as the good shepherd.
      1. The Lord is my shepherd. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside the quiet waters. {V.1-2}
      2. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, you rod and your staff, they comfort me. {V.3-4}
      3. The Lord guides His sheep even through difficult and perilous places.
    - iii. Strength for sustenance.
      1. He will stand.
      2. A different kind of strength.
      3. God provides nourishment for body and spirit.

- iv. Again, turn to Psalm 23.
  - 1. The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing. {V. 1}
  - 2. He refreshes my soul. {V. 3}
  - 3. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. {V. 5}
  - 4. The Lord provides – He is the source of everything we need.
- v. The shepherd of Micah 5 comes to us bringing gifts we also find in the good shepherd of Psalm 23.
  - 1. Guidance, direction.
  - 2. Sustenance, and provision.
  - 3. Strength and Power.
- vi. No wonder Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd.” -- John
  - 1. He wants us to understand what he brings us.
  - 2. He wants us to know that His strength is our strength – we live in his power.
  - 3. Isn't it nice to know that we aren't powerless?
    - a. Isn't it nice to know that the power that Jesus has at his disposal is at our disposal too?
    - b. Jesus himself said, “Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” – John 14:12.

- III. Let's also see that majesty is waiting.
  - a. In Micah 5:4 again – “in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.”
  - b. Majesty – The greatness, the glory, the awesome presence of God.
    - i. It's a word I usually associate with Kings, rulers and royalty.
    - ii. They are majestic (maybe a little lifted up) and I am not.
  - c. But Micah is telling us something very different.
    - i. Because Jesus comes in majesty, we also have majesty.
    - ii. We (who were of no account) are now valuable, important, and lifted up with Jesus.
  - d. It means we have standing before God.
    - i. The Bible puts on an equal footing with Jesus.
    - ii. We are called “joint heirs” with Christ.
      - 1. We are not unimportant, of no value.
      - 2. We have majesty!
  - e. “How can you say that?”
    - i. There's no way that even the best of us can be majestic like Jesus.
      - 1. Nobody's that good!
      - 2. There's only one Jesus.
    - ii. I can say that because we reflect His glory.
      - 1. As we are transformed by the power of God ...
        - a. As we become more like Christ ...
        - b. We reflect His glory.
      - 2. 2 Corinthians 3:18 – “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
  - f. We are far more important, far more valuable, far more glorious than we imagine.
- IV. Last week we saw that Jeremiah brought the word of the Lord to Judah at a time of national crisis – Jerusalem is about to be overrun.

- a. In the midst of that terrible reality – Jeremiah brought the people hope.
    - i. Hope for salvation and safety.
    - ii. He reassured them that God wasn't finished with them just yet.
  - b. Into a similar situation of crisis and trouble comes Micah – bringing the Northern Kingdom of Israel news of their destruction.
    - i. But all is not lost.
    - ii. There is a shepherd who will come and stand with his sheep and shepherd them.
      - 1. He will bring them guidance as a good shepherd will.
      - 2. He will bring them majesty – they will have standing in His eyes and the eyes of His father.
  - c. In both cases (Jeremiah's and Micah's) the movement is the same.
    - i. It is a movement from suffering to salvation.
    - ii. It's a movement from defeat to victory.
    - iii. Hopelessness to hopefulness.
  - d. In Jeremiah ...
    - i. God's people move from death to salvation.
    - ii. They move from danger to safety.
  - e. In Micah ...
    - i. God's people move from a people lost in the wilderness to a people with divine guidance.
    - ii. They move from a people of no account to a people of majesty.
- V. Getting to Christmas has never seemed more important.
- a. Getting to Christmas means putting off ...
    - i. Death and danger.
    - ii. Putting off turmoil and sin.
  - b. It means that a people that was lost, ignorant of God and lowly.
    - i. Are now safe, secure, and have a purpose.
    - ii. They now know God and share in His glory.
  - c. That's what's waiting for us this Christmas.
    - i. And that's why getting to Christmas has never been more important.
    - ii. That's why it's so important to know that the promises God made to the prophets are still valid for us today.
  - d. All that was waiting for the people of Israel and Judah was found in the coming of their Messiah.
    - i. All that we hope, pray, and wait for is found for us in the coming of that Messiah – Jesus.
    - ii. The waiting isn't always easy, but getting there makes it all worthwhile.
- VI. We're getting to Christmas – we're almost there.
- a. And I'm excited to open the gifts that God has waiting.