

DEFT, CHRISTMAS, EVER.

"Gifts that Change Everything", Luke 18:9-14
December 9, 12-13, 2015: Cam Huxford, Senior Pastor

A parable is a little story with a big message that is usually trying to make a single main point.

I. Give the Gift of Authenticity.

What Jesus teaches us about the Pharisee:

1. Reject a false sense of security. *Isaiah 64:6 NIV, Titus 3:5*
2. Avoid arrogant attempts to impress.
3. Refuse foolish comparisons with others.

Four types of pride that causes us to compare ourselves with others:

- Race pride *Galatians 3:28*
- Face pride
- Place pride
- Grace pride *Romans 3:10,23-24*

Jesus came to the manger, so He could go to the cross in our place!

If we give into this kind of pride and self promotion...it won't impress God...but it will influence people...negatively!

II. Give the Gift of Humility.

Justification occurs when Jesus takes the punishment for our sin on the cross...and gives us a righteousness that is not earned, but comes as a gift when we seek a relationship with Him. In Christ, God then sees us "just as if we'd never sinned", because of His grace.

How Jesus describes the Tax Collector:

1. His motives are sincere.
2. His evaluation is honest.
3. His repentance is genuine.

III. Give the Gift of Generosity:

1. Compare yourself more with Jesus and less with others.
2. Reach out in friendship to the person with whom you disagree.
3. Listen patiently to those who are different than you.
4. Practice seeing people the way God sees them.

Ministry Opportunities

For more information about these and other events, go to SavannahChristian.com/Events.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

7 p.m. Thursday - Sunday, Dec. 10 - 13

Worship Center

This is your last opportunity to come to our fun, family-friendly Christmas production. It's the story of six unruly siblings who decide to take over the annual Christmas pageant. As the town reacts in horror, the pageant director becomes even more determined to make it work. The pageant turns out to be the most unusual one the town has ever seen, and possibly the best one ever. \$5 tickets are available at The Source bookstore and at SavannahChristian.com.

Element Lock In

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18 - 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19

The Link across the lake

High school students, stay up all night at this lock in event. It'll start with an awesome time of worship and then we'll head to the movies, play games and more. This event is for students at all of our campuses. We expect this event to fill up quickly, so sign up soon at SavannahChristian.com.

Reduced Prices at The Source Bookstore

The Source bookstore will be moving into a smaller space in January. The prices on our existing inventory are now drastically reduced. Come by and save on great Christian books and gifts.

Dates for Final 2015 Giving

Contributions for 2015 can be made online and through the mobile app through Thursday, December 31. The last opportunity to make a 2015 contribution during services will be Wednesday, Dec. 30. Gifts made after Dec. 31 will be counted as 2016 contributions.

Financial Peace University

4:15 - 6 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 6 - April 9

Adult Ministry Center across the street

Learn practical skills for managing money from a biblical perspective in this DVD-based course taught by Dave Ramsey. It's appropriate for all income levels and life circumstances. Topics include personal savings, eliminating debt, investing for retirement and more. Sign up and purchase your course materials at SavannahChristian.com by Sunday, Jan. 31.

2015 Year-To-Date Giving and Attendance Through November

Average Weekly Attendance: 7,811

General Giving: \$13,133,659

Faith Promise (Global Outreach): \$1,040,542

The ONE Campaign Pledged: \$11,467,814

The ONE Campaign Received: \$8,783,564 (77%)

Online, Mobile and Kiosk Giving: 43% of Total Giving

YTD Transfers and Baptisms: 782