

A Children's Sermon for Christmas Eve, Year A
December 24, 2007
Fr. Jim Cook

Getting the point of Christmas

Note to the Reader: Unlike most of my sermons, which I deliver from a fully prepared manuscript, I delivered this children's sermon from the main aisle using only notes scribbles on index cards. What follows below, are those notes.

What do you like best about Christmas?

For some people it's ...

- The Christmas trees and decorations.
- The music.
- The big family dinner.
- Visiting with family and friends.
- The presents.

What else am I leaving out?

That's right ... Jesus!

Sometimes we get so excited about all these other things
that we forget that Christmas is Jesus' birthday.

That reminds me of a story about a little boy who had always wanted to go to a circus.

One day he saw a poster in a store window that said that a circus was coming to town. A ticket to the circus cost \$1. The boy ran home and asked his dad if he could have a dollar to go to the circus on Saturday. His dad told him that, if he worked hard to get all of his chores done, he could have a dollar to go to the circus.

The little boy worked hard, got all of his chores done, and on the day the circus came to town, his dad gave him one dollar.

The boy went to town, excited about seeing wild animals, trapeze artists, and all of the things that come with a circus. And since he arrived early, he was on the front row when the circus parade started down the main street of town. The boy was thrilled when the animals and other circus acts paraded by.

At the end of the parade came the clowns, and following the clowns was the ringmaster. When the

ringmaster passed by where he was standing, the boy ran out into the street, took the dollar bill from his pocket, and handed it to the ringmaster.

“Thanks, mister,” said the boy, “that was a great circus.” Then the boy went home. He never knew what he had missed. He *thought* he had been to the circus, but he had only been to the parade.

Christmas is about celebrating the birthday of Jesus. But if we’re not careful, we’ll be like that little boy; we’ll get so excited about the presents, food, decorations and music, that we’ll forget what it’s all really about ... Jesus.

Dear Jesus: Thank you for all the fun things that we get to see and do this time of year. But help us remember that it’s really all about you. Happy birthday, Jesus. Amen.

However, for you “big kids,” I have these thoughts:

- Christmas is not about purchasing gifts; it’s about sharing your gifts.
- It’s not about wrapping presents; it’s being present and wrapping your arms around the ones you love.
- It’s not about getting your Christmas cards out in time; it’s sending any card, anytime, at the right time.
- It’s not having the biggest best Christmas light display; it’s displaying the Christ-light that comes from your heart.

And finally,

- It’s not about Santa coming down the chimney; it’s about Jesus coming down from heaven, and giving us the gift of eternal life.

May God bless you during this holiday season, and throughout the new year.