

Title: “Me on Your Mind”

Chris Ryan

John 1:1-16

12/25/2022

Service Readings: Is. 52:7-10, Heb 1:1-6, John 1:1-18

Who am I that the King of the world would give one single thought about me?

Message:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

It is not often when a song is composed whose lyrics could stand in the place for the content of a sermon, but Matthew West did just that when he wrote the song “Me on your Mind.” It starts out this way:

I've read the words in red
How You leave the ninety-nine
To find the one missing, feels like that was written
With me on Your mind

And the prodigal son who ran
Leaving his home behind
The part were the father came running to meet him
Did You say that with me on Your mind?

Who am I that the King of the world
Would give one single thought about my broken heart?
Who am I that the God of all grace
Wipes the tears from my face and says, "Come as you are"?
You paid the price, You took the cross
You gave Your life and You did it all
With me on Your mind

It's a song that explores not just the activities of God but the motivations behind them. It frames the story of God in a way that becomes personal to each one of us. Our God, the God who created the heavens and the earth, did it all for you and he did it all for me.

John writes something similar in our Gospel passage this morning when he writes:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

In the beginning was... nothing. Absolutely nothing except God. He was and is and always will be. There was nothing that he lacked, and yet he created from nothing... everything. But why? What was his reason? For if he lacked nothing, what could creation provide that he didn't already possess? What could motivate him to do it?

And yet, he did. And through this all things were made. And it was all good, very good. But his creation wasn't satisfied with it. His creation wanted more, wanted not to serve God but to *be* God. And so it rejected him and rebelled against him. And he knew, even before he created, that it would happen, yet he created anyway. Why? To what end?

He could have destroyed what he had created and what we had corrupted, but he didn't. Instead, he sent Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Instead of destroying creation he planned to redeem it by sending us a savior in the form of a baby child. And this child would grow as every child does, but he would be perfectly obedient to the father who sent him. John talks about this when he writes:

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

You see, even after we sinned and rejected God, he sent us a savior, a solution to our problem. But we rejected him and esteemed him not. And we sent him to suffer under Pontius Pilate who then crucified him – hanging him on a tree until he died. And God knew this, even before he sent us his son, that we would reject him, yet he did it anyway. Why? To what end?

And after Jesus died and was buried, he descended into hell to bear witness to the victory that he had won. And on the third day he rose again from the dead and ascended into heaven where he is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

You see? Every Sunday we sit in this church and we hear about all of this. And because the Holy Spirit dwells in us we recognize and confess that God is the creator and that Jesus is our savior. We know all of this. But do we really *get* it? Do we understand it in our minds, alone or do we feel it in our hearts?

This is what I want to impress upon you this morning. As you imagine the scene play out in Bethlehem, you see the stable where the animals share a space with Mary and with Joseph and with this newborn baby child they named Jesus. But do you also see yourself in that scene or does it just resemble the cover of a Hallmark Christmas card?

John wants you to paint yourself in that manger scene, not as an observer but as the *reason* that the baby is swaddled in that manger. *You* are the reason. And if you don't see that, if you don't *feel* that in your heart, then the value of this event degrades to being nothing more than just an excuse to gather with friends and family.

John wants you to paint yourself in that manger scene. He says as much when he writes:

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

This is the why. *You are the why.* You are God's motivation for not just baby Jesus but for the creation of the universe. All of this was done because of you, and for you. All of it was done because God loved you before you were even born. And because of that love he created so that you could be created. And he sent Jesus so that you, the one he loved, the one he created for, could live with him forever. You are why the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. You are the reason that he has shown us his glory. You are the reason he sends us grace upon grace. You see, all of this, the creation, the birth of Jesus, all of it was done for you.

It is an overwhelming truth, one that can make us pause and contemplate.... Everything.

Who am I that the God of all grace
Wipes the tears from my face and says, "Come as you are"?
You paid the price, You took the cross
You gave Your life and You did it all
With me on Your mind

We know the answer to this question because we have seen the work of God. Who am I? I am everything to God. You are everything to God. He has made all and he has given all... for you. You are not cognitive knowledge to him but are an invaluable person that he sacrificed everything for. He knows every hair on your head. This is how intimate his knowledge is of you. This is how great his love is for you. And this is why there was a baby lying in a manger 2000 years ago. It had nothing to do with his love of his world, and everything to do with his love of you.

Who are we that the God of all grace gave his life for us? Who are we that the King of the world wipes the tears from our face and says come as we are?

Quite simply, we are everything. Everything to him. He paid the price. He took the cross. He gave his life. And he did it all.. with you and me on his mind. What a wonderful Christmas present that thought is for us this morning.

Please pray with me.
I've read the words in red
Of a Heavenly home on high
You're preparing a place where the sorrow's erased
And when I stand before You, I'll find
All along, it was me on Your mind
Amen.