

Sermon Notes for December 11, 2005

**Morning: "Christmas And The Tender Heart"** Matthew 1:18-25; Ephesians 4:32  
(Pew Bible page 867; 1040)

"And be ye kind one to another, **tender hearted**, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (KJV) Ephesians 4:32 **BYKOTA**

**I. The Downward Contentions of Bitterness— The Negative to Christmas—** "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice." Ephesians 4:31

- **Bitterness**— "to cut or to prick" - "Lest any root of **bitterness** springing up trouble you and thereby many be defiled." Hebrews 12:15 (1070)
- **Wrath**— "outburst of anger and hot temper" - "All they in the synagogue when they heard these things were filled with **wrath**." Luke 4:28 (908)
- **Anger**— "to take revenge with an angry disposition" - "But I say unto you, That whosoever is **angry** with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment." Matthew 5:22
- **Clamor**— "Outcries to stir up others" - "And there arose **a great cry**: and the scribes . . . Pharisees . . . arose and strove." Acts 23:9 (991)
- **Evil Speaking**— "Blasphemy, slander" - "But whosoever shall say, 'Thou fool,' shall be in danger of Hell fire." Matthew 5:22
- **Malice**— "A vicious character/A bad heart" - "Repent therefore of this **wickedness** . . . I perceive you are in the gall of **bitterness**." Acts 8:22 (973)

**II. The Upward Progression of Tenderheartedness— The Positive of Christmas—** Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted" (KJV) "Be kind and compassionate to each other" (NIV) "The Lord is very compassionate (**tenderhearted**) and merciful." James 5:11 (1075) "Finally, all of you be of one mind, have compassion (sympathy) for one another; love as brothers, be **tenderhearted**, be courteous." I Peter 3:8 (1077) Christmas should make us "tenderhearted" year round. "Tenderhearted" literally means "good inside to the deepest part of the soul."

- ❖ Tenderheartedness is when Christ-likeness goes into our inner most being.
- ❖ Tenderheartedness is kindness (graciousness) in action.
- ❖ Tenderheartedness is the gift to speak the truth in love.
- ❖ Pray for all your enemies today.

- ❖ Forgive from your heart the person who has hurt you.
- ❖ Give to the World Missions offering from a heart of love to touch a needy world.
- ❖ Concentrate on your family relationships.
- ❖ Practice being kind and gracious to the next person you meet.

**III. The Daily Motivation from Forgiveness— The **Superlative** of Christmas— Matthew 1:18-25 “**Forgiving** one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32 (KJV)**

Joseph is a beautiful illustration of the tenderheartedness of Christmas that must touch our souls—

- ❖ Tenderheartedness **Forgives** Sincerely— “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.” Matthew 1:19
- ❖ Tenderheartedness **Follows** Submissively— “Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife.” Matthew 1:24
- ❖ Tenderheartedness Yields the **Fragrance** of Salvation— And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 “Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a **fragrant offering** and a sacrifice to God.” Ephesians 5:1 “And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” Matthew 1:25