

## **Jesus Christ: Nothing Fills the Vacuum** **John 12: 20-33**

In 1992, the Washington Redskins won the Super Bowl with an explosive victory over the Buffalo Bills. Seventy-five thousand people gathered on the mall between the Capitol and the Washington Monument to cheer their team and coach. Four days later, Chuck Colson called the Redskins' office to see if any football players could attend a rally at a prison the next day. Many of the players had given their life to Christ. Joe Gibbs, the head coach, answered the phone and told Colson that all the players had left the city for a well-deserved rest. With his characteristic humility, Joe Gibbs asked Colson, "Will I do?"

Colson immediately accepted the offer by the coach of the championship Washington Redskins. Five days after winning the Super Bowl, Joe Gibbs could have opened any door in Washington DC, but he was willing to walk behind the locked steel doors of the penitentiary for the District of Columbia to speak to men about his faith in Christ.

Joe Gibbs stood up to speak to the cheers, whistles, and applause of 500 prisoners five days after he had won the most prestigious event in pro sports. He told those men:

"A lot of people in the world would probably look at me and say: "Man, if I could just coach in the Super Bowl, I'd be happy and fulfilled... But I'm here to tell you, it takes something else in your life besides money, position, football, power, and fame. The vacuum in each of our lives can only be filled through a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Otherwise, I'm telling you, we'll spend the rest of our lives in a meaningless existence. I've seen it in football players' eyes, and I've seen it in men who are on their deathbed. There's nothing else that will fill the vacuum."

So what are we holding onto that keeps us from serving our Lord and Savior? It will never fill the void in our lives that only Jesus can fill. We have heard the message of God's love over and over, and yet we struggle to submit to God's love.

Dr. James B. Lemler was preaching one time about the Trinity. He told about a couple of parents who had gone home from his church and during Sunday lunch were talking about his sermon.

During their conversation, their second-grade daughter sitting at the table chimed in. "Oh, Father Lemler's sermons, they're always the same," she said, "You know . . . blah, blah, blah, . . . love . . . blah, blah, blah . . . love."

Dr. Lemler said he was amused and thought to himself, "Hey, this little girl really got it . . . the message, the repetition, the core, the redundancy."

"And so it is with the Holy Trinity," says Dr. Lemler, "Over and over again . . . blah, blah, blah, love . . . blah, blah, blah, love . . ."

"God the Creator . . . I love you and give my life to you.

“God the Redeemer . . . I love you and embrace you in that love forever.

“God the Spirit . . . I love you and warm your heart and your soul with my love.

“Blah, blah, blah love . . .”

Why do we make it so difficult to respond to God’s love? What does it take to realize that the only thing that will fill our void and make us whole is God’s love for us? Let us repent of the things that keep us from embracing God’s life giving, transforming love, so that our lives might be complete.

God bless,  
Pastor Barbara