

4. 1-23-22

Sermon- Something About That Name

Scripture- Luke 4:14-21, CTW- Psalm 19

Hymns- 148, 678, 271

Theme- The name, mission, and message of Jesus is our calling and what we do with His name has eternal value. Jesus said that the church will prevail. What does that mean to us and what is our part in all this?

When I was growing up I heard it and I'll bet you did too. As a matter of fact, my kids heard it over and over and over: Be careful where you go, what you do, and how you act because you're not just representing you, you're representing our family NAME.

What difference does a name make? Let's look at a few and see if they make any difference.

Here are some examples: Santa Claus; Abraham Lincoln; George Washington; Elvis; Homer Simpson; Darth Vader; Hitler; Pilot. All of those names conjure up some kind of feelings don't they?

But let me ask you this: Would their names be famous if they wouldn't have done something first? In other words, if Hitler had not killed millions of Jews, we probably would never have known his name.

If Abraham Lincoln had not freed the slaves, we probably would have as much trouble remembering his name as we do many of the other presidents' names. If Elvis had not swung his pelvis... who knows? (Thank you very much)

I. It is all About the Anointing we Receive from God. It is His purpose that should matter most in our lives. Look at what Jesus said in today's passage:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the

oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." Luke 4:18-19 (NLT)

So if this was Jesus' life and purpose, then would it be safe to say it should be our life and purpose as well? I think so, but before we say yes, we should look at the purpose associated with the name of Jesus. Notice what he came to do:

II. Jesus Explains His Life and Purpose:

A. The POOR will hear the Good News.

What did Jesus mean when He said the poor will hear the Good News? To get this, you've first got to be poor in spirit. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)**

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? **It means to realize you're spiritually bankrupt without God.** And really, only a saved sinner can understand what it means to be poor in spirit.

Many people think that as long as they keep a certain set of rules or religious regulations that they have it all together.

They are not yet bankrupt in spirit, but **when the Holy Spirit convicts of sin and the wrong in our lives and the rejection of Christ Jesus**, we realize our total poverty before Him and then we become poor in spirit and we are truly blessed.

Paul said it this way: Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything. **2 Corinthians 6:10 (NLT)**

B. The CAPTIVE will be released.

Then Jesus said the captives would be released. Paul said, "But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me." **Romans 7:23 (NLT)**

You see, you don't get rid of the old nature when you are saved. And yet there is no power in your new nature. It causes the child of God who is honest to cry out, as Paul cried:

"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **Romans 7:24 (NKJV)**"

This is not an unsaved man who is crying, "O wretched man that I am"; **this is a saved man.**

The word wretched carries with it the note of exhaustion because of the struggle. "Who is going to deliver me?" He is helpless. His shoulders are pinned to the floor -- he has been wrestled down.

Anybody here that's a declared follower of Christ understands that you still struggle with sin. Jesus wants to release you from that today.

C. The BLIND will see.

Next he said the blind will see. What does that mean in the context of today's world?

We know that one of the signs were the miracles of Jesus and one of the things pointed out by **Nicodemus** in **John 3** when he said: "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

We know that He is still doing miracles today. He is still in the physical healing business. There are many times we've all heard and some even experienced signs and wonders that just can't be explained away by human reason.

In reality, every one of us was blind before we yielded to the Lordship of Christ in our lives. In that moment the scales fell off our eyes, and we were then able to see as never before because we experienced the thing Jesus called the "new birth from above."

The sad thing is this. There are many who have truly at one point in time yielded their lives to Christ, began their new life, yet failed to develop as a vibrant, growing, changed child of God.

Peter was trying to encourage New Testament believers when he said: "But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins." **2 Peter 1:9** (NLT).

D. The OPPRESSED will be set free.

The last group of people Jesus mentioned in this passage was those who were oppressed. They would be set free. Who are those people?

Acts 10:38 (NLT) tells us "And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth...Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

To be oppressed is to be browbeaten, demoralized, exploited, and broken. We've all experienced that at times in our lives haven't we? Jesus said he came to set you free from that oppression.

Too many times we go to church and all we hear is how bad we are instead of how good God is!

Sometimes if we're not careful we can see the Gospel as Bad News! But there is no bad news of the Gospel! There is life change, and eternity change, and attitude change, and language change, and heart change. He came to set you free, not enslave you; to give you a future and a hope. He has good plans for you too!

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

III. Some of you today might be lost and wondering, is there any hope? How do I go on? Does anybody care what happens to me?

A. Jesus does! He cares for you, Jesus loves you, Jesus wants to help you and Jesus will set you free.

When we turned to Jesus we turned from darkness to light.

When we turned to Jesus we turned guilt to forgiveness.

When we turned to Jesus we turned from hopelessness to hope.

When we turned to Jesus we turned from no purpose to meaning in life, from loneliness to a Christian family, from despair to hope.

The name of Jesus makes all the difference in the world. But before He can do all that for you, you've got to answer the same

question He's been asking for over 2000 years; one that I settled years ago.

Nobody can answer it for you. They can pray you will answer, but you'll have to answer Him yourself. It's the question He asked Peter one day and it's the question Jesus is asking you this morning in the first month of a new year.

There's only one way to take advantage of this great hope. You've got to answer the greatest question ever asked about the greatest name ever given.

B. But before I give you the question, let me tell you a story found in Matthew 16. Jesus and His disciples had left the region around the Sea of Galilee and they went north to Caesarea Philippi. He was now heading toward Jerusalem and the Cross.

But before He begins that journey, there are two things that must be clear in the minds of His disciples; (1) who He is, and (2) what He is going to do.

These are the two things that all of us have to be clear on in order to be Christians. We have to know who He is, and we have to know what He did. We need to know these things in order that we might exercise faith and be saved.

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 16:13 (NKJV)

"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" and then he follows with: "But who do you say that I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NKJV)

C. This is a question that is still being asked today. Who is this Jesus? Is what He said to us enough or did we need another authority to tell us the rest of the story?

Did He mean what He said when He said that He had opened up the way to the Father and that forever and ever He is our High Priest and we have no need of another?

Did He mean what He said when He the Holy Spirit as well as the Christ said that marriage is indeed God's plan not man's invention and it is about one man, one woman for life?

Did He mean that part about no murder or is okay in certain situations when it is inconvenient for me to let you live?

It doesn't matter who your neighbor says Jesus is. It doesn't matter who the multitudes say Jesus is. It doesn't matter who your mother, father, sister, or brother says Jesus is. The only question you can answer today is this one. WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

We remember how Peter answered in the Matthew passage:

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Then Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. Matthew 16:17-18 (NLT)

IV. So this is the life changing truth of the day for all of us.

You can hate Jesus. You can deny that He was the Son of God and turn your back on Him. Or you can love Him and run to Him today for restoration and healing.

But the one thing you can't do is remain neutral. You can love Him or hate Him but you can't ignore Him!

A. The Good News today for all of us is this: For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **John 3:17 (NKJV)**

Jesus did not come to condemn you. He came to save you and restore you and love you and give you a purpose to live for and power to live on. But if you choose not to accept His gift and His love today, **John 3:18** tells you what you're choosing for yourself:

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **John 3:18 (NKJV)**

Why is important that you choose, that you yield your life to the Lordship of Christ today? Because the book's still open...for today.

So how will you respond to the name of Jesus? He is waiting for our answer...EVERY DAY! **Amen? Let us pray...**