



## Greetings from Pastor Rich Friday, December 11, 2020

Saludos en el nombre de Jesucristo!

On Monday, the world heard the sad news that Chuck Yeager died at the age of 97. Perhaps some of you remember the day back in October of 1947, when Yeager's jet, a Bell X-1, was the first aircraft to fly Mach 1, going faster than the speed of sound.

When I think about Yeager's life, I can't help but be amazed at how this one moment in 1947 came to define his life. After October of 1947, Yeager lived for another 73 years, but for the rest of his life, he was always known as the guy who broke the sound barrier. There were surely many other memorable events in Yeager's life of 97 years, but for the public, none were as significant as this one. Even more interestingly, had someone else broken the sound barrier the day before Yeager's famous flight, the world would never have known his name.

A single moment in time can also tell the world who we are. In Luke Chapter 10, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan, which is the story of a man who is robbed, beaten and left half dead on the side of the road. The man was helped by a Samaritan, but only after a priest and a Levite passed him by. Perhaps the priest and Levite had excellent reasons for passing him by. Maybe they were in a hurry. Maybe they felt sorry for the man, but they believed that someone else would come along who wasn't in as much of a hurry as they. Maybe the priest and Levite had helped many other people and they thought they had done their share of good deeds. Perhaps they said to themselves "Let someone else help for a change." But we don't know any of these things. All we can do is speculate. In the same manner, perhaps the Samaritan wasn't in a hurry. Maybe this was the only time he ever did something nice for anyone. But again, all we can do is speculate. All we know is that the Samaritan helped and the other two didn't. All we know is what happened in this one moment in time.

During this season of Christmas as we think about the gifts we can give each other, I think that often the best gift we can ever give someone is what we do for them in a single moment in time. In the moment when we were needed, did we help them? Did we visit them when they were lonely? Did we comfort them when they were sick? Did we call them or send them a card when they were discouraged? We will never know how much these single moments in time

mean for someone else. But more importantly, what we do in a single moment can even define who we are for that person for the rest of our lives.

This Sunday, for the third Sunday of Advent, our scripture readings will be Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 and First Thessalonians 5:16-24. My sermon will be titled *The Season of Promise*. I look forward to seeing all of you at 9am on Zoom!

Blessings,

Pastor Rich