

2017: Week 24

Sunday, June 11th 2017

“Preaching Victory”

Luke 4:18

Jesus: “¹⁸ The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He anointed Me to **preach the gospel** to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed” (NASB)¹.

On Sunday John preached from various passages in Scripture, reminding us of key components related to sharing the message of the gospel. Sometimes it can be easy to forget what the message of the gospel actually is and how we can effectively share its message with others. John reminded us that the gospel message is all about *what God has done for us in Christ*. **1 Corinthians 15:3–4** explicitly shares with us that the gospel is that Jesus died on our behalf. He died to pay for our sins. The greatest part of the story is that the story doesn’t end with Jesus’ death. The story continues with His resurrection, and Jesus’ resurrection demonstrates victory. He accomplished the purpose for which He came— to completely pay for our sins. Jesus conquered death, and if you have trusted in the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you too have conquered death through Him. His message is a message of victory!

As a follower of Jesus, we must remind ourselves that our message is a message of victory. In Jesus, we are victorious, and we have hope for the future! Rather than fearing what others may say negatively about our message, we should embrace our opportunity to share the “good news” with them. Any person who places his/her faith in the Lord Jesus can be victorious through His work on the cross. Do you run away from that message, or do you run and share that message?

1. “THE TEXT”

READ 2 Samuel 18:19–31

- In this passage there was a man named Ahimaaz who wanted to run and report news of the army’s victory to the king. Although initially being discouraged from doing so by the general, Ahimaaz was granted permission to do so. Ahimaaz quickly ran past the other messenger (the Cushite), so that he could share the news of “victory” with King David.

How did John compare this story (running to share news of “victory”) with that of preaching the gospel?

READ Isaiah 40:9–11 and Isaiah 52:7

- What are similarities within these two passages?
- What do we learn about God from these two passages?
- What do we learn about the messengers from these two passages?

2. “YOU”

- Do you know the Lord well enough that you want to run and tell about Him to others? If not, how do you think you can get to know Him better?
- How might you improve at sharing with others the great news of Jesus and His victory?
- In John’s sermon he reminded us of the various victories Jesus provides for the believer: a) victory of the penalty of sin (**Colossians 2:13-14**), b) victory over the power of sin (**Romans 7:24-25**), c) victory over the devil (**Hebrews 2:14-16**), d) victory over trials (**John 16:33**), and e) victory over death (**1 Corinthians 15:22, 56-57**).

Which of these victories did you need to be reminded of today?

3. “REMEMBER”

- **Romans 10:15b, 17** “¹⁵ ...‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things’... ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”
- **1 Corinthians 15:57** “but thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear Lord, thank you for providing me with so many victories in Jesus. Help me to better embrace the privilege I possess in telling others about such victories! Amen.

¹ All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.