

June 22, 2014
Sermon for Second Sunday after Pentecost
St Peter Lutheran Church
Bowie TX
Larry Knobloch, Pastor
Matthew 10:5a, 21-33, (ESV)

J.J.- Jesu Juva—Help me, Jesus

Matthew 10:5a (ESV)

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, ...

Matthew 10:21–33 (ESV)

²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴ "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. ²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Amen.

As we enter into our text for this morning, we come to a portion of Scripture where Jesus is giving instructions to His disciples that He is sending out. Earlier in Chapter 10 we read: *“He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. (NIV)*

Jesus is sending them out, and like any good master, He is giving them instructions, He has already given them several points of advice and now He comes to a tricky point, confessing Christ to others. They had great power to be sure. Verse 8 says that they had the power to *“heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with leprosy and to drive out demons”*, but their power, Just like Jesus, was a power of peace and healing, not of conquering and domination.

These men that Jesus was sending out were not great theologians; they were not sent out to argue because there were many questions that they could not answer themselves, just as there are questions that we cannot answer, they were preaching and proclaiming what they believed by faith.

They were sent out as messengers to tell of the Christ, the Messiah, true Savior that everyone had been waiting for. There weren't there for arguments, only proclamation of the Gospel.

We are called to confess Christ in the same way. To confess means to acknowledge Him, and to acknowledge His teachings, His Kingdom and what He came to do; and also to acknowledge what He says in reference to how we can be saved by faith in Him. This is all clearly revealed in the Gospels, that Jesus is the Son of God; that He has redeemed all mankind, paying the price for our sins and for the sins of all of the world, and that through faith in Him, we can be forgiven and receive the gift of eternal salvation.

We make this confession each week in Church, in what we call creeds. The Athanasian creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Apostle's creed are known as the symbols or confessions of the church, a short, simple exposition or explanation of what we believe, taken from the teaching of the Bible, never meant to stand in the place of the Bible, but to give a summary of it.

This is what it means to be a confessional church, that we share in the same confession. This is the simple confession that we make here in church, and can easily be the pattern for proclaiming and confessing Christ to our friends and neighbors, and to the entire world.

By the grace of God, forgiveness of sins and salvation is offered to all men. In and of himself, the sinner cannot possibly hope to offer sufficient payment for his sins or to bring about reconciliation with the Almighty. He is lost, facing an eternity of punishment in hell.

But the heavenly Father sent His Son to redeem mankind, to pay the price demanded by God's justice, and to win for mankind an eternal home in heaven.

Our readings for today show us the very truths that we confessed in the Apostles Creed earlier this morning. In the Epistle for today, Romans 6:12–23, Paul writes of the pitiful state of sin in which we were born into. As a result of the disobedience of that one man, all people ever since have been born in a sinful condition. Because of Jesus, we no longer have to, nor should we continue to live in sin. Jesus has taken away the guilt and punishment of the world's sins. Through Him the world has been justified. We should live as one who is forgiven, not one who has been condemned.

Faith is the hand by which we grab a hold of the benefits of Christ's work one's own, and the Holy Spirit plants faith in a person's heart by means of the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and also by the Word. Both the Old Testament Scripture, Jeremiah 20:7–13, and the Gospel for the day emphasize the importance of preaching that Word.

Jeremiah had been called to preach repentance to a backsliding Israel, but because of the hardening of the people, the preacher of repentance became the messenger of judgment. The message of judgment was, of course, unpopular, and Jeremiah's life was in danger as a result. Nonetheless, the prophet felt compelled to preach and was certain that the Lord would protect him.

The Gospel from Matthew focuses on the certainty which Jeremiah enjoyed, that certainty which every disciple can have. By virtue of his faith, the Christian is a messenger of Christ—now whether he is active in this capacity is another story. So often fear, as it did with the twelve disciples, will keep a Christian from proclaiming his Savior.

We live in a world that is antagonistic toward Christ and His followers—if not outwardly, at least in a subtle manner which we see in the banning of God from our schools and other public areas of life while other religions are allowed in the name of tolerance and free speech. Anyone who openly professes Jesus as Lord and Savior might very well meet with ridicule and slander. He may experience the loss of friends, of reputation, of employment, or he may be harassed in any of a number of ways because of his Christian confession.

Nevertheless, the same glorious promises spoken to the disciples of Jesus are spoken to Christians today. Without any fear whatsoever, Christians can boldly talk about the Savior. Yes, we may suffer persecution, but so did Jesus. Jesus was slandered, beaten, and killed...are we above our Master? Even in ridicule, we have the comforting knowledge that God will not leave us out to dry. As we read in our text:

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:29–31 (ESV)

And we have the further promise that just as Jesus rose from the dead, we too have the promise of eternal life through faith in Him.

Are we going to have all of the answers? No. But neither did the disciples as Jesus sent them out. There are many things in Scripture that we simply cannot explain or even comprehend for that matter.

They are simply true because Jesus said they are. They can only be believed by faith—and faith comes by hearing. We are to proclaim the truth and Good News of the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit will take care of the rest. Again, our text addresses this, telling us not to be afraid of slander and ridicule, we read:

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.” Matthew 10:26–27 (ESV)

Proclaim the great news of Jesus Christ from the rooftops, in the grocery store, at the lake, and wherever you are moved by the Spirit to do so, and when questions arise, you have a great opportunity to further spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And believe it or not, you do have all of the answers to any question that might come up, even if it is “I don’t know”...which can always be followed up with but I’ll find out and get back to you...or better yet, come with me to church and we’ll find out together.

Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus! Amen.

Sermon Outline

Being Sent By Jesus Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

- I. We are sent just like the disciples.
- II. By faith we believe, by faith we proclaim Jesus.
- III. We aren't going to have all of the answers, but God's Word does.