

“JESUS, FRIEND OF SINNERS”

Satilla Baptist Church

Sunday, June 3, 2012

AM Service

Pastor William Pope

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I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Many names of Jesus are dear to me.
 - i. Preached a Sermon not too long ago about Jesus the Man of Sorrows- how it speaks of His identification with those who are suffering]
 - ii. Jesus the Great Teacher-How we need someone to teach us how to live
 - iii. Jesus the Miracle Worker- Nothing is impossible with God. How He had compassion on the sick, suffering, and dying.
 - iv. Immanuel- God with us-to think that God would come down in human form and walk among us.
 - v. Spotless Lamb of God-Jesus is Holy and Pure and Perfect.
- b. But today we want to look at one of the most precious names of Jesus-Jesus the Friend of Sinners
- c. Examine some sinners that Jesus met and how He dealt with them.

II. THE SHAMED SINNER (John 8:1-11)

a. Haunted By Her Past (V. 1-4)

- i. Sin of her past
 - 1. Guilty
- ii. Shame of her past
 - 1. Think of all we possess, something we can sell if we no longer want them, but we cannot escape our past.
- iii. “Be sure your sin will find you out”
- iv. “Whatsoever you sow you shall reap”

b. Abandoned By Her Partner (v.3)

- i. Alone
- ii. Abandoned

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iii. Success has a thousand fathers, but failure is an orphan.

c. Humiliated By Her Prosecutors (v. 3-4)

- i. Public
- ii. Personal
- iii. "in the very act"

d. Aware Of Her Punishment (v. 5)

- i. Sure
- ii. Severe

e. Rescued by the Savior

- i. He confronted her accusers with their own sin
- ii. He pardoned her by His Grace

Neither do I condemn thee, precious words divine.

From the lips of mercy like the sweetest chime,

Wonderful words of Jesus, sing them o'er and o'er!

Neither do I condemn thee, Go and sin no more!

- iii. He instructed her to walk in purity

III. THE SEEKING SINNER (John 4:1-42)

- a. Sin is an effort to meet a need we perceive we have. We are seeking to find something we feel we do not possess.
 - i. Companionship, Love, Satisfaction, Power, Peace, Meaning,
- b. Jesus initiates a conversation. Jesus is seeking the sinner (v.7)
- c. She is surprised (v9)
- d. Jesus invites Her to come to Him (v.10)
- e. She is confused (11-12)
- f. Jesus offers her Hope

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- g. She leaves her waterpot (symbolic of leaving the things behind we have been depending on to meet our needs and turning to the Only One who can.)

IV. THE HOPELESS SINNER (Luke 23:39-43)

- a. Here was a man who was dying and had wasted his life in sin. He had no hope of redemption. He was condemned and life for him would soon be over.
- b. His partner in crime, continues his rebellious ways until the end. Full of anger and bitterness he lashes out at everyone around him, including Jesus who is dying beside him.
- c. But this hopeless sinner, calls out for mercy from Jesus, In an act of faith, he calls upon this dying man Jesus to “remember him when He comes into His Kingdom”
- d. In perhaps one of the greatest stories of redemption in the Bible, Jesus gives Hope to man without Hope. This sinner, who has nothing to offer Jesus, but **his faith and repentance**, is forgiven, restored, pardoned, and promised eternal life in Heaven.
 - i. *Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling!*

V. SINNERS JESUS WAS NOT A FRIEND TO

a. The Self Righteous Sinner

- i. Scribes and Pharisees
- ii. Jesus harshest words were reserved for these men.
 - 1. *“Woe unto you, Scribes, Pharisees, Hypocrites.....*

b. The Selfish Sinner

- i. Rich Young Ruler
- ii. He would not give up his riches (which had become a sin to him because it keep him from the Lord) to follow Jesus.

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c. The Stubborn Sinner

- i. The other thief on the cross refused to repent or believe. .
- ii. He would die in his sin full of anger, bitterness, and hatred.
Would that he would have heeded the invitation of Jesus. As the Hymn writer says:

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading?
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies?
Mercies for you and for me!
Come Home! Come Home!
Ye who are weary Come Home!
Earnestly, Tenderly, Jesus is calling!
Calling Oh Sinner, Come Home!*

(From Hymn “Softly and Tenderly” one of my most favorite hymns, listen to a beautiful rendition of it below: Often sang as an invitation hymn at the end of the service)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3TmIn7PGds&feature=related>

VI. CONCLUSION

- a. As sinners, and we are all sinners, Jesus is the best friend we could ever have.
- b. He offers full pardon and acceptance to all who will come to Him bringing nothing but repentance and faith.