

06.16.24
Sermon Notes
Pentecost
Acts 4:1-31

Hello and welcome to this week's sermon notes. I want to keep our notes simple and focus on three things. I find that it's easy to get lost in all that is being presented and so I want to simplify our notes this week so that we can focus on the three things that I want us to focus on. Here we go!

First, let's create a list of key points we've covered in this series that we should always be prepared to discuss with people. It is always good for us to be prepared to have honest conversations around these fundamental aspects of our faith in Jesus. It is always good for people to hear about these 6 details about Jesus.

What We can always say about Jesus...

- Jesus Is A Historical Person

- It is always good to tell people that Jesus was a real person who lived within History.
 - The Gospel accounts are based on eyewitness testimonies from those who personally experienced Jesus. For instance, Peter, in Acts 4:20, refuses to stop speaking about Jesus because he is committed to sharing what he has seen and heard. People lived with the historical Jesus, and denying this is both dishonest and historically inaccurate.
 - The Bible is the most accurate and well-documented text in human history. It is reliable and trustworthy, with a consistent and unified message all throughout. God has provided a comprehensive account of His work on earth and it is good to point people towards it. For an excellent sermon on this topic, I recommend listening to Voddie Baucham. ([Link Here](#))

- Jesus Died

- It is always good to tell people that Jesus went through death.
 - Jesus died so that through his righteous death, all people might have access to forgiveness and peace with the Father. Read Romans 3:21-26 to see why Jesus' death is meaningful to all people.
 - Each Gospel says that Jesus died...
 - Matthew 27:50
 - And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.
 - Mark 15:39
 - And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
 - Luke 23:46

- Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.
- John 19:30
 - When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 - 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14
 - 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
- Jesus Resurrected
 - It's always good to share that Jesus was resurrected. Through His resurrection, God validated and secured the sacrifice Jesus made. As a result, all who believe in Jesus will also experience His resurrection. Without Jesus' resurrection, we would still be under the law and unforgiven for our sins.
 - 1 Peter 1:3
 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,...
 - 1 Corinthians 15:13-19
 - 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.
 - Colossians 1:19-20
 - 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
 - The Internal Evidence of the Resurrection is that we now have Peace with the Father
 - Romans 5:1

- Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Passages that capture Jesus after his death. Real people who had real encounters with the resurrected Jesus.
 - Luke 24:13-23- Road to Emmaus
 - John 20:26-29- Jesus appears to Thomas
 - John 21:1-25- Sea of Galilee & asks them about their fishing
 - Acts 1:3-8- Appears to the disciples
 - Luke 24:36-43- Eats fish with them
 - 1 Corinthians 15:6- Appears to over 500 believers
- Jesus Is Exalted
 - It's always good to tell people that Jesus is currently exalted in Heaven. This means that God the Father honored Jesus' sacrifice by placing Him in the highest position of honor and authority in heaven and on earth. We preach Jesus because we are saved by His actions, and He is the savior of all creation. Our denomination is Christ-centered because Jesus is our only story. We now await His return, when the reality of heaven will become the reality on earth.
 - Hebrews 1:3
 - 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
 - Philippians 2:4-11
 - 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Jesus Offers Salvation & Forgiveness of Sin
 - It is always good to tell people that Jesus is the only thing that makes sense of all the evil/suffering and joy/beauty in the world. Jesus was clear on this topic and the rest of the New Testament continues this radical exclusive truth claim. It is our joy to tell people about Jesus because we believe he can & wants to save them.
 - John 14:6-7
 - 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known

me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

- Acts 3:12
 - 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- Jesus is our salvation because He was Actively & Passively Obedient...
 - Active Obedience in that he lived a perfect life according to the law that God gave Israel in the Old Testament. He actively lived out all that God says is righteous.
 - Passive Obedience in that on the cross Jesus took the penalty of our sin onto him and allowed himself to be killed in our place.
- The Trinity’s involvement in our Salvation
 - The Father Planned it
 - The Son Accomplished it
 - The Spirit applies it to us when he indwells us.
- One last note...
 - The Bible does not give us a specific idea of the exact point that we lose the opportunity to be saved. Whether there are any further chances to repent after death. The passage we turn to here is Hebrews 9:27...
 - 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
 - This uncertainty gives us urgency to speak about Jesus because it will have eternal consequences.

- Jesus Started The Church

- It's always good to tell people that the Church matters to Jesus. The Christian life is meant to be lived in honest community with other Christians, working together to bring more people to faith. While the church can sometimes be challenging, we should never abandon the universal church because the fellowship of believers is essential. There are plenty of places that call themselves churches when they are not, but Jesus’ real church will always be preserved.
 - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Boldness

The word that stands out to me in Acts 4 is 'boldness.' Peter and John spoke boldly to the religious leaders, who were astonished by their confidence. After being released, they returned to their friends and prayed for more boldness. The Holy Spirit shook the room, enabling them to continue speaking boldly.

It's important for us to understand what this boldness means. The Greek word used in this chapter is 'Parresia' (παρρησία), which means freedom in speaking, unreservedness in

speech, the ability to speak openly, frankly, and without ambiguity. It also means free and fearless confidence, and my favorite definition is cheerful courage.

This is how I believe we can speak about Jesus with boldness in our daily lives. (Include the list you shared on Sunday here.)"

- We speak with
 - **Conviction**
 - If the Gospel of Jesus is true, what would it look like for you to speak with firm conviction? If we believe we have the ultimate message of truth and love, then why do we live so quietly? We either know we have what Jesus offered the Samaritan woman at the well—Living Water—or we don't believe it. Conviction cannot be faked; it must be genuinely owned.
 - Are you ultimately convicted that the Gospel message is the truest message?
 - Have you ever spoken about Jesus with conviction?
 - What would it take for you to be this sure about the gospel message?
 - Do you think God trusts you to share his story?
 - **Courage**
 - If the Gospel of Jesus is true then what would taking faith-filled risks look like for you?
 - Are you scared to share about Jesus?
 - If you are, you should understand why...
 - Are you nervous that you don't know enough to answer questions?
 - Are you nervous to be seen as a Christian?
 - Are you nervous because it'll mean you have to live at a higher standard?
 - Are you nervous to "ruin" someone's chances of becoming a Christian?
 - What would it look like for you to trust in the Holy Spirit to help you know what to say? (Mark 13:10-13)
 - **Clarity**
 - If the Gospel of Jesus is true then as a Christian how can you be learning more of it?
 - Are you investing yourself into learning more about...
 - The Bible?
 - The whole Biblical narrative?
 - The gospel accounts?
 - Theology & Doctrine?
 - Do you not learn more because you lack the interest?
 - Do you not learn more because you don't think it's important?
 - At what point does a lackadaisical attitude towards scripture serve as evidence that they are actually not real Christians?

- What would it look like if you had mastery over the gospel message and could speak with people knowing that you can answer a reasonable amount of questions from them?
- This circles back to one of the pillars of our sermon series...
 - If You Can't Explain it, You Don't Get It.
 - We ALL have more to learn about the Bible and God's story but you need to examine yourself to see if you actually know what you say you confess. If you cannot speak with a reasonable amount of clarity, you don't know the story and we can change that! CityLife Bible Study anyone?!?!?!?!?
- **Resilience**
 - If the Gospel of Jesus is true then what would it look like to be ok when you're rejected by people you're sharing with?
 - Fear is always one of the strongest motivators for people BUT this is not the way we are called to live. If this is your posture then you are living below the calling that God has for you!
 - As long as you are speaking Jesus in love and through the Spirit then you are not responsible for people's responses to the Gospel. When you share resiliently then you can trust that the Spirit is the one who convicts people of truth.
 - What would it look like if you were ok with rejection?
 - What would it feel like if you knew that people were not rejecting you but the message?
 - What would it be like if fear was totally removed when speaking about Jesus?
- **Intentionally**
 - If the Gospel of Jesus is true then what would it be like if you went about your daily life always looking for a chance to tell someone about Jesus?
 - What would it be like if you were always available to have honest conversations with people?
 - Would you enjoy having these types of conversations?
 - Do you give yourself the excuse of saying that you're not gifted to have these types of conversations?
- **With Love**
 - If the Gospel of Jesus is true then what would be like to tell people that God loves them?

City2City's 4 H's

- History→ Tell Me Your Story
- Heart→ What do you love to do? What are you into?
- Hurts→ What would you change about your Life?
- Hopes→ What are your dreams? What about for your family?