

08.04.24
Speaking Jesus- Sermon Notes
"Yes, I am Coming Soon."
Revelation 22:12-21

This week we concluded the "Speaking Jesus" sermon series. The goal of this series has been to develop a natural, intentional, and appropriately urgent approach to talking about Jesus in our daily lives. We began in John 4, where Jesus revealed His identity to the Samaritan woman at the well, and then spent the last nine weeks exploring the book of Acts. Through these biblical stories, we saw various followers of Jesus share His story and their faith in a wide range of circumstances.

Here was our game plan:

- Acts 2: When the Spirit arrived and filled the disciples for the first time, they shared about Jesus. People from all over the Jewish world heard these simple Galilean men speaking in their native tongues. The gospel is translatable and able to work in different contexts.
- Acts 3: Peter's sermon at Solomon's Portico. After healing the lame beggar, Peter shared about Jesus with a large crowd, and many people believed. The newly formed church began to grow and we see that many are attracted to the truth.
- Acts 4: Peter and John's first defense of Jesus before the temple rulers. The religious leaders apprehended them, but they boldly testified about Jesus. They speak to the power of their day and the council found no way to stop them from speaking about Jesus.
- Acts 5: The apostles' are arrested again but experience a miraculous release. An angel freed them from jail and directed them to return to the temple to continue preaching about Jesus. Speaking Jesus comes with risk and those risks are good.
- Acts 7: Stephen's speech about Israel's history and Jesus, highlighting that God's plan has always been to prepare the world for Jesus' arrival.
- Acts 9: Saul's conversion, demonstrating that even the most unlikely person can be called and commissioned to speak about Jesus. Saul murdered believers but then became one. No one is outside of God's salvation.
- Acts 10: Cornelius, a Gentile, called for Peter. Peter preached Jesus' story to Cornelius' whole family and all people present became followers of Jesus. Peter experiences that the Gospel is for everyone. All people can receive the Spirit!
- Acts 8: Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. This story shows that God calls His people to explain Jesus to others so they can understand and believe. The Ethiopian man's question, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" is the question all people are made to ask.
- Acts 17: Paul's trip to Athens, where he reasoned with the Greeks, exemplifying cultural insight to communicate who Jesus is in a way they could understand.

Now, I just want to send us off with a final reflection on the heart of this past week's sermon. I wanted the sermon to be simple (not sure if I succeeded in that) and I wanted us to be sent out with an invitation that is included in the final chapter of the Bible. Revelation 22:17 says this...

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

When the church embraces our mission to speak about Jesus to others, we are fulfilling our final invitation in Revelation. We are called to be people who share Jesus' message and extend a simple invitation: Come! Come into life with Jesus. Hear about Jesus, and then decide for yourself who you believe He is. Come and believe if you are thirsty for what is real! Come and believe if you trust that Jesus can give you the free gift of life! Our role is to share Jesus' story and invite others to consider it for themselves.

I know that speaking about Jesus can be daunting, but let me remind you that the pressure is not on you. In this invitation, the Bride (the church) speaks in union with the Spirit! As someone who has chosen a career in speaking about Jesus professionally, I understand the pressure. There is always a weight with things that matter, but remember, the outcome belongs to the Spirit, not you. You can trust the Spirit to do His job because He is very effective at what He does. He spoke to you, and He can speak to others through you!

You were made to speak about Jesus. You are already equipped to say something meaningful about Jesus. The invitation has been extended to you now. Will you accept it? I pray that you do, and that through the journey of discovering how you were made to speak about Jesus, you come alive! The Bride loves speaking about the Groom!

Here are the passages that I used to reference how Revelation describes Jesus.

- Jesus' Appearance
 - Clothing
 - Dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. (1:13-16)
 - Robe dipped in blood (19:13)
 - Hair
 - The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow. (1:13-16)
 - Head
 - and on his head are many diadems (jeweled crowns) (19:12)
 - Eyes
 - His eyes were like blazing fire. (1:13-16)
 - His eyes are like blazing fire (19:12)
 - Feet
 - His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace. (1:13-16)
 - Voice
 - and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet (1:10)

- His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. (1:13-16)
 - Right Hand
 - In his right hand he held seven stars. (1:13-16)
 - Mouth
 - Coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. (1:13-16)
 - Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. (19:15)
 - Face
 - His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (1:13-16)
- Nature→ Who he is and has always been
 - I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (1:8, 21:6, 22:13)
 - Worthy Lamb
 - And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (5:6)
 - Rider of the White Horse
 - 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in **righteousness he judges** and **makes war**. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. (Rev 19:11-12)
- His Names
 - Holy one and True One (3:7)
 - Faith and True (19:11)
 - Word of God (19:13)
 - King of kings and Lord of lords (19:16)
 - Root and Descendant of David (22:16)
 - Bright Morning Star (22:16)