



RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

THE WEEKLY BRICK

February 28, 2010.

As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:4-5

Lenten Sermon Series: “Jesus Who?”

“What is the Mission of Jesus?”

Luke 13:31-35

Context:

On Ash Wednesday, we explored Jesus’ divinity. Last Sunday, Jesus’ humanity. These two natures of Jesus form what is theologically understood as the *Hypostatic Union*: one God in Christ existing in two natures; true God and true man. Today, we look at the mission of Jesus. In this passage from Luke, Jesus expresses a strong sense of destiny as He laments over Jerusalem. He must go to Jerusalem to die! Why? Jesus Himself said that His mission was to fulfill every detail of the Old Testament (Matthew 5:17-18). For God’s people in the Old Testament, there were three major offices: prophet, priest, and king. As we examine the words of Jesus, we discover that He came into our world to fulfill each of these offices.

Relevant Scriptures:

I. Jerusalem and the Mission of Jesus.

Luke 13:33 In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

Malachi 3:1 See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

Luke 24:44 He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

II. Jesus’ Three-Fold Office (“The Triplex Munus”)

- _____. As a prophet, Jesus reveals God to us and speaks God’s word to us.

Luke 13:34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Deuteronomy 18: 15, 17-18 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him... ¹⁷ The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.

- _____ . As a priest, Jesus reconciles us to God by sacrificing Himself for our sin and continually intercedes for us.

Luke 13:32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'
Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

- _____ . As a king, Jesus rules over all peoples and times, and every aspect of our lives.

Luke 13:35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

John 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Prayer/Implications: Jesus said that He was sent from heaven to earth on a mission from the Father to redeem and reconcile humanity (John 3:12ff). Jesus was obedient to this divine mission through His work as our prophet, priest, and king. Consequently, we have forgiveness, healing, hope, and an open future.

(Answers: Prophet, Priest, King)

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Day #1--Monday, March 1st Read: Deuteronomy 10:12

We continue with a study of the ways God grows us in Christ and we become more like Jesus which is the purpose of Christian discipleship. Lent is a time for spiritual growth and a deepening of our relationship with Jesus. This week, we again focus on worship.

Jonathan Edwards was a Congregational pastor and a key figure in the "Great Awakening" of the eighteenth-century. In his writings, *Religious Affections*, Edwards writes:

"The kind of religion that God requires, and will accept, does not consist in weak, dull, and lifeless 'wouldings'-those weak inclinations that lack convictions-that raise us but little above indifference. God, in His word, greatly insists that we be in good earnest, fervent in spirit, and our hearts be engaged vigorously in our religion...This fervent, vigorous engagement of the heart is the fruit of a real circumcision of the heart that alone has the promise of life..."

The life of a Christian is more than just "wouldings." What God wants is our hearts. The Biblical understanding of the "heart" is the center of the self. God desires a life lived with abandonment, a full throttle openness to God and God's surprising work in this world and your life.

Going Deeper: Psalm 64:10; Psalm 73:26.

Going Forward: If I changed the definition of my faith from "wouldings" to "wild abandonment", what would my daily faith look like?

Prayer: *Lord, help me to love, trust and serve you with all of my heart! Amen.*

Day #2--Tuesday, March 2nd Read: Psalm 9:1; 1 Peter 1:3.

The Bible teaches us that God created you to love you. God desires a relationship with you! Here is the other side of that incredible truth: You were created to love God in return. Our loving response to God first loving us is called wor-

ship. You were made to worship. Worship is the natural response of a life that knows it is loved. When you worship you are remembering that it was God who made you and it is from God that you receive life, hope, strength, and salvation. God gives, you receive. Your response is praise. Praise flows from the lips of those who know that all we have is from a loving Father and He is in control. This is what Max Lucado writes:

“Praise is the highest occupation of any being. What happens when we praise the Father? We reestablish the proper chain of command; we recognize that the King is on the throne and that He has saved His people.”

God has saved us! God had told us that He would never leave us! God promises that His love will last forever! What work does God want you to do to receive these promises? Nothing! Accept them and just love Him back.

Going Deeper: Psalm 100:2-3.

Going Forward: I was created to love God and to worship Him.

Prayer: *Lord of all, I worship and praise you for all that you are. Amen.*

☐ Day #3--Wednesday, March 3rd Read: Psalm 138

Gratitude...Living a life of worship begins with a spirit of gratitude before God. We will not praise God and worship if we believe that God “owes” us something. Notice the word gratitude has the same root as our word “grace.” I am thankful to someone when they have given me something I do not deserve or did not expect. Worship is surrender to the reality that our lives are a gift from God. God desires that our worship be motivated by love, gratitude, and joy, not guilt or duty. Thankful people are JOYFUL people. Do you know people who are joyful? I guarantee they are thankful people. As you reflect on the kindness of God, the goodness of God, and the faithfulness of God, what are your thoughts?

Going Deeper: Psalm 52:9.

Going Forward: What one action can I do today that will demonstrate my gratitude to God?

Prayer: *Father, hear my praise. I thank you for the food I have, the bed I sleep in, the love I receive and the family that surrounds me. It is so easy to take everything for granted. Help me never to forget that you want my gratitude and that when I am thankful I will find joy. Amen.*

☐ Day #4--Thursday, March 4th Read: Philippians 1:9-11

Worshiping God is not just what you do on Sunday morning. Worship involves your whole life. When you play with your kids; that’s an act of worship. When you love your spouse, that’s an act of worship. When you take food to the poor, that’s an act of worship. When you give a word of kindness to someone who needs those words, that’s worship. God wants you to do everything to His glory. What does that mean? It means doing whatever you do like you are doing it for Jesus. I may hate my job. But I can decide to go to work and do my job as an act of worship to God. I can do my job to the glory of God. Our biblical act of worship is our willingness to dedicate our seven-day-a-week lives to the glory of God. Worship is living the principles of Jesus in everything we do. You worship God by what you do all week long. Finally, when we worship, our faith is deepened toward God and our love of others flows out of a *worship-full* heart.

Going Deeper: Colossians 3:23.

Going Forward: My whole life can be an offering of praise to God.

Prayer: *I offer this day to you Father. May all I do honor you and bring you joy. Amen.*

☐ Day #5--Friday, March 5th Read: Luke 4:5-8

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, one of the devil’s temptations was that he would give to Jesus all the authority and splendor of the “kingdoms of the world.” Jesus’ reply to the devil is that God alone is to be worshipped. Herein lay a foundational truth: our desire for the “world’s splendor” is a “worship” issue. The question is who

or what do we worship other than God? To put anything other than God in the center of our lives means that something or someone receives our allegiance, our attention, our praise. My life and your life are about God, not about us. God put us here. God has a plan and a will for us and for this world. We can choose to live for God or live for ourselves. When we worship, either corporately or in the other aspects of our lives, we are saying, “God you are the reason I live.” Evelyn Underhill, a Theologian and writer expresses it this way:

Worship, then, is an avenue which leads the creature out from his inveterate self-occupation to a knowledge of God, and ultimately to that union with God which is the beatitude of the soul; though we are never to enter on it for this, or any other reason which is tainted by self-regard... Thus worship purifies, enlightens, and at last transforms, every life submitted to its influence... God’s invitation to it and man’s response, however limited, crude, or mistaken this response may be, are the appointed means whereby we move towards our true destiny..”

Our “true destiny” is found in God. After all, He is the one who gave us life.

Going Deeper: Romans 12:1-2.

Going Forward: What obstacles sometimes hold me back from making God the object of my worship?

Prayer: *You are the reason I live, and move, and have my being Jesus. You are the source of life and truly are worthy to be praised. Amen.*

☐ Day #6--Saturday, March 6th Read: Psalm 150.

Tomorrow morning, on the “Lord’s Day,” we gather together as God’s people in order to honor God for who God is, for God’s saving work in our lives and in the world, and what God will do in the days to come. We worship in very different ways. Tomorrow morning there will be traditional liturgical worship, Contemporary “Praise,” some hymns, some “praise songs”, some liturgy, some anthems, offerings, organ, guitar... you get it. Worship is not about style. It’s about the heart. If our “style” of worship is offered in spirit and truth, then it is pleasing to God. Let’s be reminded of two important truths about worship:

1. Worship is not for my benefit. Of course I “get something” from worship, but that is not the primary focus. The primary focus is God. When we go into the corporate worship tomorrow, our thought needs to be, “How can I please God today?” “How can I demonstrate to God how I feel about Him?”
2. Worship is not just Sunday—it’s everyday. We have already talked about this. However, again, Sunday worship is the time that we set aside to honor God and demonstrate to God that he deserves our getting out of bed, getting dressed, and joining with other brothers and sisters in Christ to glorify God’s name. We also continue to glorify God as we leave Red Hill and head to breakfast or back home. It’s all worship.

Going Deeper: Hosea 6:6.

Going Forward: Is there any attitude I need to change about worship so that I can give myself to God?

Prayer: *Tomorrow Father I will worship you with your people. Prepare my heart now for worship tomorrow. May I please you in my singing, with the words I speak, with a smile and greeting to someone, listening to the choir or band, and in my inner most heart. May my whole life be an offering of praise to you. Amen.*

