

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who Is Jesus? Pt 8

Acts 10:36-48

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SermonAudio Blurb: Peter is now ready to address the house of Cornelius, filled with friends and family of this Centurion. But what is his message? It begins and ends with the person and work of Jesus. In this short series we walk through his words to see the many qualities that belong to Jesus and see the utter centrality of Him in all things. In this message we see that not only is He worthy of our public testimony, that it is our duty to be identified with Jesus.

I. Introduction.

- A. Read 10:42-48.
- B. 14 Qualities about Jesus.
 - 1. Peace-Maker (36a).
 - 2. Messiah (36b).
 - 3. Lord (36c).
 - 4. Historical (37a).
 - 5. The focus of the prophets (37b).
 - 6. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (38).
 - 7. Sacrifice and High Priest (39).
 - 8. Resurrected (40-41).
 - 9. Focus of New Testament Preaching (42a).
 - 10. Judge of All (42b).
 - 11. Savior (43).
 - 12. Giver of Holy Spirit (44-46).
- C. Our identity is very important.
 - 1. Peter told these people filling this house that Jesus is Lord of all.
 - a. This is not an option. There shall be no escape from His lordship.

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- b. This is no small thing and the Scripture is blunt, brutally blunt about it. Matthew 7:
 - (1) *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*
 - (2) We have countless people claiming Christ and claiming salvation from the wrath of God. But in reality their only claim is really that they asked Jesus into their hearts at some point.
 - (a) They will invoke the first half of John 3:36, *“He who believes in the Son has eternal life,”* with the ardent cry that they believe!
 - (b) But in turn they will ignore the second half which says, *“but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*
 - (3) Unless you start well and maintain close vigilance. As Paul warned in 1 Corinthians 10:12, *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.”*
- D. With this introduction in our minds, let us see the last quality of Jesus found in this passage.
 - 1. We see it in vss 47-48 and it is centered upon the idea of being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - 2. And without further ado he orders, not suggests, orders them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - 3. This is where we see the last quality, that Jesus is worthy of public testimony from all who claim Him as their Lord and Savior.

II. 14 Qualities about Jesus.

- A. Worthy of Public Testimony (47-48).
 - 1. Jesus and only Jesus is with Whom we must be identified.
 - 2. The Jewish companions of Peter are standing there amazed as they see the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon these Gentiles.

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- a. A major paradigm shift is happening to them and it is in this time of amazement Peter now speaks.
- b. The New Covenant was proclaimed in the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel, in the midst of horrible judgment by God upon the people of Israel. And this New Covenant was a promise filled with hope.
3. The question is simple, who can prevent these Gentiles from being baptized? And the answer is simply assumed, “No one.”
4. We learn a few principles here of value regarding baptism.
 - a. First, only believers are being baptized.
 - b. Second, baptism is not to be withheld from those who are able to show that their faith rests in Christ alone.
 - c. Third, the statement, “to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” is not a formula for what is to be said; rather, it is a statement of identification.
 - d. Finally, baptism is not optional.
5. This all sets up the point I want to develop based out of this text. Our identity and our testimony in and through our lives must be first and foremost Jesus Christ.
- B. The great distinction between a religious individual and a true Christian is you find Jesus central in their life.

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1. Ask yourself that simple question and all the other things that tend to clutter your mind are brushed away. Is Jesus central? Is Jesus the one, absolute non-negotiable in your life?
 2. Jonah 1:9-10 is an example of one's identity.
- C. A survey of the importance of our identity in Jesus Christ.
1. Romans 6:1-4.
 - a. In light of all that God has done through Jesus Christ Paul now comes to sin in the life of a Christian.
 - b. The question posed is one we see lived out all the time. Jesus took my sin so I can sin and not really worry about it. It is all covered by the blood.
 - c. Paul rejects this. But why? Because if you are a true Christian then your identity is tied to only Christ.
 2. 2 Corinthians 4:1-10.
 - a. Faith in Christ necessarily requires you to renounce all other things (1-2).
 - b. Satan cannot snatch you from Christ. But what he can do is cause you to want to help his labors to veil the glory of Jesus Christ to the lost.
 - c. So in our weakness (vss 7ff) we find that Jesus is revealed (10) to those who watch. This only will make sense if your identity is Jesus. If it is your health, safety, self-preservation, comfort, and such, then it will be folly. And your faith in Christ will be in question.
- D. This identifying with Christ is THE way, not A way.
1. Go back to Matthew 7.
 2. When we drive or walk we can do the direct route or a scenic route. But the call of Christ is through one gate, a narrow gate called Jesus Christ. Matthew 7:13-14, *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who*

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enter through it. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

3. The narrow way is utterly different from the wide path.
 - a. It is marked by a level of aloneness as only a few find it; while the wide path is full and gives the appearance of the good life.
 - b. Even finding the gate is hard. It is a small gate, both narrow and low. To enter it requires that you leave everything else behind. All must be laid down and cast aside.
 - c. Every thing—love, desire, and treasure must be sacrificed to get through the gate. And this will only occur when we see that to gain Christ is worth it all.
 - d. But to gain Christ is to identify with Christ.
4. Mark 8 says it so well and so painfully clear (34-38), *“And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*
 - a. **“Take up his cross.”**
 - b. **“Follow me.”**
 - c. **“Whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel.”**
 - d. **“To gain the whole world.”**
 - e. And so we claim Christ but are ashamed of Him. We play down His words and commands and standards for those who follow Him. And then when all things come to the end, we find we never were of Him.

III. Conclusion.

- A. And so we come to the end of this little story of how the gospel came to the Gentiles.
- B. To deny baptism is to deny Christ for He is the One who commanded it.

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Benediction

May our merciful God and Father open our eyes to the glory and vastness of His love toward us through Jesus His Son. May we see ourselves seated with Him in heaven as recipients of His grace. And may God grant us through the Spirit, eyes to grasp the many good works He has called us to love and do. Amen