

“The Man of His Word”

Summary

This powerful message invites us to rediscover Jesus not as a familiar figure we've domesticated in our thinking, but as the awe-inspiring person who caused seasoned fishermen to ask, 'What manner of man is this?' At the heart of this exploration is a profound truth: Jesus is a man of His word—not just someone who makes promises, but someone who IS the Word made flesh. Drawing from John 1 and Genesis 1, we're reminded that the same creative Word that spoke light into existence is the Word that has taken up residence in our spirits through the new birth. This isn't abstract theology; it's transformative reality. When we truly see Jesus as He is—faithful, trustworthy, utterly reliable—we begin to reflect His image. The message challenges us to examine the 'tents' and 'curtains' in our lives: those protective mechanisms we've built during difficult seasons that now keep us from seeing the expansive vision God has for us. Like Abraham being called outside his tent to see stars beyond counting, we're being invited to step beyond our comfort zones and limited thinking into the higher thoughts and ways of God. The question isn't whether God will keep His promises—He always does—but whether we'll trust Him enough to come out from behind our defenses and dream with Him again.

Small Group Study Guide – The Man of His Word

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to help you see Jesus as He truly is and to recognize His faithfulness in your lives.

Icebreaker

Share a time when someone kept their word to you in a significant way. How did that impact your trust in them?

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus is the Word Made Flesh

- Jesus doesn't just speak God's word; He IS the Word of God

- When we encounter Jesus, we encounter the very character and nature of God
- Everything created was made through the Word (Jesus)

2. God's Word is Backed by His Character

- God has magnified His word above His name (Psalm 138:2)
- God's promises are guaranteed by His very nature
- We've been born again by the incorruptible seed of God's Word

3. We Are Predestined to Be Like Jesus

- We're on a "bus" predestined to conform us to Jesus' image
- The journey may take unexpected routes, but God is faithful to complete what He started
- Every glimpse of Jesus carries the power to transform us

4. Coming Out of Our Tents

- Like Abraham, we sometimes need to leave our comfort zones to see God's bigger picture
- Our "tents" are the familiar, protective environments that can limit our vision
- God calls us to dream again beyond our limitations

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. What does it mean that Jesus is not just "a man of His word" but that He IS the Word? How does this distinction change how we approach Scripture?
2. Pastor Rob mentioned that "God's definition of good and our definition of good are often two different things." How have you experienced this in your own life?
3. Discuss the concept of being "predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son." How does this understanding affect your view of current challenges?

Personal Reflection

4. What is your "tent"—the comfortable, familiar place that might be limiting your ability to see what God wants to show you?
5. Do you have any "ugly curtains" in your life—survival mechanisms that helped you through a hard season but are now keeping you from living in the light of a new day?

6. Pastor Rob shared that God told him, "Every time you speak, I speak." How does this encourage you to be more intentional about walking and talking with God before speaking to others?

Going Deeper

7. Abraham believed God even when the circumstances didn't make sense. What promise has God given you that requires faith beyond your current circumstances?
8. How can we develop the kind of trust that allows us to say, like Abraham, "You're a man of Your word, God"?
9. The sermon mentioned that Jesus only spoke what He heard the Father speak. What practical steps can we take to hear God's voice more clearly before we speak or act?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. Come Out of Your Tent

- Identify one area where you've been playing it safe
- Ask God to show you what He wants you to see beyond your comfort zone
- Take one step of faith outside your familiar boundaries

2. Tear Down a Curtain

- Identify a protective mechanism you've used that may no longer serve God's current purpose for you
- Journal about why you put it up and what it might look like to remove it
- Pray for courage to live in the light of this new season

3. Feast on the Word

- Set aside 15-30 minutes daily to read Scripture, not for information but to encounter Jesus
- Ask the Holy Spirit, "Show me Jesus as He really is"
- Write down one thing you learn about Jesus each day

4. Practice "Slow to Speak"

- Before speaking in important situations this week, pause and ask, "What is God saying about this?"
- Wait to hear from God before responding
- Keep track of how this changes your conversations

5. Review God's Promises

- Make a list of promises God has given you (through Scripture, prophecy, or personal conviction)
- Beside each one, write: "God is a man of His word"
- Pray over each promise, declaring your trust in God's faithfulness

Memory Verse

Romans 8:28-29 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son."

Group Prayer Focus

- Pray for each person to have a fresh encounter with Jesus as He truly is
- Ask God to reveal any "tents" or "curtains" that need to be addressed
- Pray for faith to trust God's word even when circumstances don't make sense
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help each person become more like Jesus
- Pray for courage to step out in faith when God calls us beyond our comfort zones

Before Next Week

- Share with the group one way you stepped out of your "tent" this week
- Be prepared to discuss how feasting on God's Word impacted your week
- Bring a testimony of God's faithfulness to share

Closing Thought

God is not just asking us to believe His promises—He's inviting us to know Him as the Promise Keeper. When we truly see Jesus as a man of His word, we become people of our word, reflecting His character to a world desperate for truth and faithfulness.

Main Points – The Man of His Word

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the nature and character of Jesus Christ as a man of His word, emphasizing that Jesus not only speaks truth but embodies it. The message focuses on how believers are being conformed to Jesus' image through their journey of faith, even when circumstances don't align with God's promises. Pastor Rob challenges the congregation to move beyond their comfort zones ("tents" and "curtains") that provide false security, and to trust God's faithfulness despite delays or difficulties. The sermon emphasizes that God's word is living, powerful, and will accomplish its purpose, transforming believers from the inside out as they learn to see Jesus as He truly is.

Key Points:

- Jesus is not just a man of His word, but He IS the Word made flesh
- Believers are on a predestined journey to be conformed to the image of Christ
- All circumstances, including difficult ones, work together to make us more like Jesus
- God's word is magnified above His name, showing His commitment to His promises
- We must come "outside our tents" (comfort zones) to see God's bigger vision
- God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours, requiring trust beyond understanding
- The word of God is like seed that produces transformation in our character
- Being like Jesus means speaking what we hear from the Father, not our own words
- God's word will not return void but will accomplish what He purposed
- We need to see Jesus as He truly is, not lesser versions that cannot transform us

Scripture Reference:

- Mark 4:41 - "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"
- 1 John 3:2 - "We shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is"
- Romans 8:28-29 - "All things work together for good...to be conformed to the image of his Son"
- John 1:1, 14 - "In the beginning was the Word...the Word became flesh"
- Genesis 1:3 - "And God said, Let there be light"
- Genesis 15:1-6 - God's covenant with Abram about his offspring
- Psalms 138:2 - "You have magnified your word above all your name"
- Matthew 5:37 - "Let your yes be yes, and your no be no"
- 1 Peter 1:23 - "Born again...through the word of God"
- John 12:49 - Jesus speaking only what the Father commands
- Isaiah 55:9-11 - God's thoughts higher than ours; His word accomplishing its purpose

Discussion Questions – The Man of His Word

What 'tents' or comfort zones in your life might be preventing you from seeing the full scope of God's promises for you?

How does understanding Jesus as 'the Word made flesh' change the way you read and apply Scripture to your daily life?

In what ways have you experienced God taking you through 'the valley of the shadow of death' while still leading you in paths of righteousness?

Pastor Rob mentioned that we become like what we worship—what version of Jesus are you worshiping, and is it transforming you into His image?

Abraham believed God's promise despite his circumstances not aligning with the word given to him. What promise from God are you struggling to believe because of your current situation?

How does the principle that 'whatever God says happens' challenge your faith when facing situations that seem impossible in the natural realm?

What 'ugly curtains' from past survival seasons might you still be holding onto that are now blocking the light of God's new work in your life?

If every time you speak, God speaks through you, how would that reality change the way you communicate with others and approach your daily conversations?

The sermon emphasizes being conformed to Jesus' image rather than just quoting Scripture. How can you move from knowing God's Word to becoming what it says?

God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac, the very channel of His promise. What might God be asking you to surrender that seems to contradict His promises to you?

Scriptures – The Man of His Word

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. Mark 4:41 - "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"
2. 1 John 3:2 - "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared, but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is."
3. Psalms 115 - Reference to idols having eyes but seeing not, ears but hearing not
4. Romans 8:28-29 - "And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good. For those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son."
5. Psalms 23:3-4 - "He leads me in paths of righteousness for his namesake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..."
6. John 1:1, 14 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"
7. Genesis 1:1-3 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... And God said, Let there be light"
8. Psalm 138:2 - "I will worship toward your holy temple and praise your name for your loving kindness and your truth. For you have magnified your word above all your names."
9. Matthew 5:37 - "But let your yes be yes, and your no be no. For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."
10. 1 Peter 1:23 - "Having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, through the word of God, which lives and abides forever."
11. Hebrews 12:23 - Reference to "spirits of just men made perfect"
12. 1 Peter 2:1-2 - "Therefore laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking. As newborn babes desire the pure milk of the word that you might grow"
13. Genesis 15:1-6 - The covenant with Abram, God's promise about his offspring being like the stars
14. Genesis 22 - God testing Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac
15. John 12:49-50 - "For I have not spoken on my own authority. But the Father who sent me gave me a command what I should say and what I should speak."
16. Isaiah 55:9-11 - "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways... So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth"
17. Luke 4 - Jesus reading from Isaiah 61 in the synagogue
18. Isaiah 61:1 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor"

Additional Relevant References (Alluded to but not explicitly cited):

19. Hebrews 12:2 - Reference to Jesus as "author and finisher"
20. Hebrews 13:5 - "He'll never leave you. He'll never forsake you"
21. James 1:19 - "Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath"
22. Psalm 81:10 - "Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it" (referenced as said to Job, but actually from Psalms)
23. Zechariah 4:10 - "Don't despise the day of small things"
24. Matthew 14:28-29 - Peter walking on water (alluded to in the "come" reference)
25. John 4:23-24 - Worshiping in spirit and in truth
26. Revelation 12:11 - "They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimonies"

Devotional – The Man of His Word

Day 1: Jesus, The Man of His Word

Reading: John 1:1-14

Devotional: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word became flesh. This profound truth reveals that Jesus is not merely someone who speaks promises—He IS the promise. When God speaks, His very nature backs up what He says. His word carries creative power that formed the universe and now forms us into His image. Today, consider this: every promise in Scripture is backed by the full character and nature of God Himself. You're not trusting in empty words but in the living Word who dwelt among us. What promise has God spoken over your life? He has magnified His word above His name, staking His very reputation on fulfilling what He's declared. Trust Him completely.

Day 2: Come Outside Your Tent

Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Devotional: Abraham faced an impossible situation—childless in old age with a promise that seemed to mock his reality. God didn't argue with Abraham's logic; instead, He invited him outside his tent to see from heaven's perspective. What is your "tent"—that familiar, protective space where you've learned to survive but which now limits your vision? God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts, but we need to step outside our self-imposed ceilings to see them. Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness. Faith isn't about understanding the how; it's about trusting the Who. Today, ask God to show you what limitations you've accepted as permanent that He wants to shatter with His limitless perspective.

Day 3: Born Again by Incorruptible Seed

Reading: 1 Peter 1:23-25; 1 Peter 2:1-3

Devotional: You have been born again not by corruptible seed but by the incorruptible Word of God. Think about this: there is a part of you—your spirit—that is already perfected in Christ. This isn't about striving to become something; it's about recognizing what has already happened. The Word is a seed planted in you, containing the full DNA of Christ, unfolding and growing as you desire the pure milk of the Word. Your growth isn't about human effort but about feeding on Him. Are you nurturing this seed with worship, Scripture, and communion with God? The seed is incorruptible, meaning it cannot fail. What God has begun in you, He will complete. Trust the process.

Day 4: When God Tests Your Trust

Reading: Genesis 22:1-18; Hebrews 11:17-19

Devotional: God tested Abraham by asking him to offer Isaac—the very son through whom God's promise would be fulfilled. This wasn't about God needing information; it was about revealing what was already in Abraham's heart and making it known to all creation. Abraham had grown from questioning God's promise to trusting God's character so completely that he believed God could raise Isaac from the dead if necessary. Tests aren't punishments; they're opportunities for your faith to be revealed and strengthened. What test are you facing that seems to contradict God's promise? Like Abraham, you're being invited into a deeper level of friendship with God—a friendship that trusts Him even when circumstances scream otherwise. Hold fast to His word.

Day 5: Speaking What You Hear from the Father

Reading: John 12:44-50; Isaiah 55:8-11

Devotional: Jesus operated as a man who only spoke what He heard from the Father. This is the pattern for us: be quick to hear, slow to speak. God's words are like rain coming down from heaven—they accomplish what He pleases and prosper in the thing for which He sends them. When you've spent time with God, listening and receiving, you become a conduit through which His creative word flows. This isn't about arrogance; it's about surrender. You're not the source; you're the vessel. As you grow in Christ-likeness, your words carry more of His authority because they originate from Him. Today, commit to listening more than speaking. Let His word saturate you until what flows from your mouth is what you've heard in His presence. Your words will then carry the power to accomplish His purposes.