

“Jesus the Evangelist”

Summary

We're diving deep into the heart of Jesus as the Evangelist, exploring how this vital aspect of His ministry is meant to shape our own lives and communities. The key message revolves around the urgent need for us to embrace and cultivate the spirit of evangelism in our midst. Drawing from Acts 8, we see Philip's powerful ministry in Samaria, where proclamation of Christ was accompanied by signs and wonders. This reminds us that true evangelism isn't just about words, but also about demonstrating God's power. The parallel between Philip's ministry and our potential impact is striking - we too can be vessels for supernatural encounters that draw people to Christ. This message challenges us to step out of our comfort zones and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us in bold and unexpected ways. Are we ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing good news to a world in desperate need?

Main Points – Jesus the Evangelist

Title: Embracing the Evangelist's Heart: Cultivating Jesus' Passion for the Lost

Sermon Summary: This message explores the evangelist aspect of Jesus' five-fold ministry, emphasizing the urgent need for the church to cultivate and embrace evangelism. Pastor Rob highlights the importance of not just preaching the good news but also demonstrating it through signs and wonders. He calls for the congregation to develop a heart for seeking and saving the lost, stressing that this is a core aspect of Jesus' nature and should be reflected in the church's activities and priorities.

Key Points:

- The evangelist grace is about proclaiming and demonstrating good news
- Evangelism is not just about church growth but about reaching the truly lost
- Signs and wonders often accompany the evangelist's ministry
- All believers should be equipped to share their testimony
- The church needs to cultivate all five ministry graces, with evangelism being a current area of needed growth
- Evangelism should lead people to be born again, not just morally improved

Scripture Reference:

- Ephesians 4:8-13 (discussing the five-fold ministry gifts)
- Isaiah 61:1-4 (prophecy about Jesus' ministry, which He read in Luke 4)
- Acts 8:4-8 (Philip's ministry in Samaria)

Stories:

- Pastor Rob's experience of leading a grieving family to Christ after a tragic death at sea
- The account of Philip the Evangelist in Acts, including his ministry in Samaria and his encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch
- Pastor Rob's recollection of conducting street surveys to gauge people's understanding of salvation

Small Group Study Guide – Jesus the Evangelist

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. The evangelist grace is about proclaiming and demonstrating the good news of Jesus Christ.
2. Every believer has a testimony and is called to share the gospel in some capacity.
3. Signs and wonders often accompany evangelistic ministry to confirm the message.
4. The church needs to cultivate and value all five-fold ministry gifts, including evangelism.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus is "the Evangelist"? How does this aspect of His character inspire you?
2. Pastor Rob mentioned that evangelism is a weak spot in our church. Do you feel this is true in many churches today? Why or why not?
3. Discuss the difference between "waiting for people to come" versus "seeking to save the lost." How can we be more proactive in sharing our faith?
4. The sermon highlighted Philip's ministry in Acts 8. What aspects of his evangelistic approach stand out to you?
5. How do you react to the idea of supernatural manifestations (like deliverance) happening during evangelistic preaching? What challenges might this present in our cultural context?
6. Pastor Rob emphasized that all believers have a "standard issue" testimony to share. What hesitations do you have about sharing your faith story?
7. How can we create a church culture that values and cultivates evangelistic gifts while also appreciating other ministry graces?

Practical Applications:

1. Take time this week to write out your personal testimony of coming to faith in Christ. Practice sharing it with a friend or family member.
2. Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily and look for opportunities to show Christ's love to them.

3. As a group, brainstorm ideas for how your church could be more intentional about evangelism in your community.
4. If you feel drawn to evangelism, speak with your pastor or ministry leaders about how you can grow in this area and serve the church.
5. Read through the book of Acts, paying special attention to how the early church engaged in evangelism. Journal your insights and share with the group next time.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His heart to seek and save the lost. Ask Him to increase your passion for sharing the gospel and to provide opportunities to do so this week.

Discussion Questions – Jesus the Evangelist

How can we cultivate and balance all five ministry graces (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher) within our local church community?

In what ways might we be unintentionally hindering the work of the Holy Spirit in our church services, and how can we create more space for God to move?

How can we effectively share the gospel message in our daily lives without coming across as pushy or judgmental?

What does it mean to be 'born again,' and how can we explain this concept to others in a way that is both biblically accurate and relatable?

How can we balance the need for order in church services with openness to supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit?

In what ways can we, as individuals and as a church, embody the 'seeking and saving' nature of Jesus the Evangelist in our community?

How might our church become more effective at reaching the 'lost' in our area, and what practical steps can we take to engage in local evangelism?

What role do signs and wonders play in evangelism today, and how can we cultivate an environment where they can occur?

How can we ensure that our focus on evangelism doesn't overshadow the importance of discipleship and spiritual growth?

In what ways can we support and encourage those in our congregation who feel called to evangelistic ministry?

Scriptures – Jesus the Evangelist

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some relevant verses for key themes:

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. Ephesians 4:8
2. Ephesians 4:11-13
3. Luke 4 (general reference to Jesus reading from Isaiah)
4. Isaiah 61:1-4
5. Isaiah 52:7
6. Acts 21:8-11
7. Acts 8:4-8
8. Acts 8 (general reference to Philip's ministry)
9. Mark 16:17-18 (alluded to)
10. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (alluded to)

Alluded to or Thematically Relevant:

1. Matthew 28:19-20 (Great Commission)
2. John 3:3 ("You must be born again")
3. Romans 10:9-10 (Salvation through faith)
4. 2 Corinthians 5:20 (Ambassadors for Christ)
5. 1 Peter 3:15 (Always be ready to give an answer)
6. Matthew 9:37-38 (The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few)
7. Acts 1:8 (Witnesses to the ends of the earth)
8. Romans 1:16 (Not ashamed of the gospel)
9. 1 Corinthians 14:33 (God is not the author of confusion)
10. 1 Corinthians 14:39 (Do not forbid speaking in tongues)
11. 1 Thessalonians 5:20 (Do not despise prophecies)
12. 1 Corinthians 14:40 (Let all things be done decently and in order)
13. Zechariah 4:6-7 (Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit)

These references cover the main themes of evangelism, the five-fold ministry, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the importance of sharing the gospel.

Devotional – Jesus the Evangelist

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide

Day 1: The Heart of an Evangelist

Reading: Acts 8:4-8, 26-40

Devotional: Philip's journey in Acts 8 exemplifies the heart of an evangelist. He was willing to go wherever God led him, whether to a bustling city or a desert road. His eagerness to share the good news of Jesus Christ resulted in joy, healing, and salvation. Today, reflect on your own willingness to share your faith. Are you open to God's leading, even if it takes you out of your comfort zone? Remember, the message of Christ is powerful enough to transform lives and entire communities. Pray for opportunities to share God's love with others and for the courage to seize those moments when they arise.

Day 2: The Power of Good News

Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10, Romans 10:14-15

Devotional: Isaiah speaks of the beauty of those who bring good news, a sentiment echoed by Paul in Romans. The gospel message is not just good, it's transformative. It brings peace, salvation, and proclaims God's reign. As believers, we are all called to be bearers of this good news. Consider the impact your words and actions have on those around you. Are you bringing hope and joy to others? Pray for God to give you "beautiful feet" – a readiness and eagerness to share His love and truth with those who need to hear it.

Day 3: Salvation Through Faith

Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10, John 3:1-21

Devotional: The core of the gospel message is that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ, not by our own efforts. This truth is liberating and humbling. It reminds us that we can't earn God's love – it's freely given. Nicodemus, a religious leader, struggled to understand this concept of being "born again." Today, examine your own heart. Are you trying to earn God's favor, or are you resting in His grace? Thank God for the gift of salvation and ask Him to help you live in the freedom it brings, motivated by gratitude rather than obligation.

Day 4: Equipped for Service

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 4:10-11

Devotional: God has given each believer unique gifts and callings to serve His kingdom. The goal is not personal acclaim, but the building up of the body of Christ. Consider the gifts and passions God has given you. How are you using them to serve others and glorify God? Remember, your role is vital in God's plan, whether it's teaching, encouragement, acts of service, or sharing your faith. Pray for discernment to recognize your gifts and for opportunities to use them effectively in your church and community.

Day 5: God's Presence in Suffering

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Devotional: The prophecy in Isaiah, which Jesus later claimed as His mission, speaks of bringing good news to the afflicted and comfort to those who mourn. Our God is intimately acquainted with suffering and offers His presence and comfort in our darkest moments. Reflect on times when you've experienced God's comfort in difficulty. How can you extend that same comfort to others who are hurting? Ask God to make you sensitive to the pain of those around you and to use you as an instrument of His comfort and healing.