

THE GIVER **AND** HIS GIFTS

The Giver and His Gifts

Part 13 - Pentecost Sunday Service

June 5, 2022

Today is Pentecost Sunday and it is the day that we celebrate the Birth of the Church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Over the past several months I have strove to take us all deeper in our understanding of the Biblical Text concerning the Holy Spirit. And it is my desire today to continue in this vein of preaching as we celebrate the anniversary and outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the Church!

I want you to turn with me to Genesis 37:23-25, “So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word. Amen. You may be seated... Point #1...

1. The Holy Spirit has a Way of Turning Our Blunders into His Blessings

In light of our text found in Genesis 37, Joseph is thrown into a pit which was a dried up well. Have you ever found yourself in a place that should have had provision but was lacking?

Secondly, Joseph is surrounded by enemies who were supposed to be his brothers and furthermore had the unmitigated gall to sit and eat while they brewed over what to do with him; kill him or leave him for dead. Have you ever found yourself surrounded by enemies who seemed to celebrate over the season that you were in.

Every one of us at some point in our lives can empathize with Joseph's dilemma. We've all experience dry seasons and we have all experienced times in our lives when it seemed that we were encompassed around about by enemies.

And sadly in these series of events, Joseph is then sold into slavery. Now many preachers would keep on plowing and talk about how his betrayal was the factor that set him up for the throne but there is something that many have missed. He was sold to Ishmaelites; the descendants of Ishmael.

Ishmael has been called a mistake for multiple millennia of time because of Abraham having laid with Hagar and she having borne Ishmael. He was not the son of the Promise which was meant to be born to Sarah but God turned what man called a Mistake into a Miracle on that day in the midst of Joseph's peril.

A Mistake found Joseph in a place of dried up resources, surrounded by his enemies and what Man called a Mistake, God turned into a Miracle and saved Joseph out of that pit. Ishmael, the Mistake, set Joseph, the Son of Promise, up for the throne of Egypt.

And it was decades later that those same brothers who threw him into a pit were found throwing themselves at the feet of Joseph begging for food.

Joseph's Miracle was bigger than just his promotion and a Mistake made it all possible and it was a Mistake that ultimately saved his life and the lives of his family.

But none of this would have happened had not the descendants of a Mistake named Ishmael met a man betrayed by his brothers. That day a Mistake became a Miracle! A breakdown became a breakthrough!

And there are so many of us whose lives are littered with mistakes that have become areas of bondage in our lives and we can't seem to get delivered from the mistakes of our yesterday. We seem to hide our faces in shame and dare to say that God can't use us because of what happened in our past. I want to encourage you today to stop living your life looking through the rear-view mirror.

If the enemy had known what was in you, he would have never come against you. It was the pressures of life that revealed the purpose for your life. If the enemy had known, he would have done himself a service by not coming against you. But by trying to defeat you, he revealed what was in you; he revealed the Call of God!

Church family! One day soon, your pain is going to preach! One day soon, your tests are going to testify! One day soon, your testimony will prophecy life into the dead seasons of others because your testimony bares record of having been in that season too!

Quit letting your failures formulate the snapshot of what your future will be! Slap your neighbor and tell ‘em, “it’s time to quit coddling your mistakes and move on to your destiny!!!” Point #2...

2. The Holy Spirit has a Way of Turning Our Gaffes into His Grace

In the Gospel of Saint John chapter 4, the Text records an interaction between Christ and a woman who was an outcast of society due to her unsavory decisions in men. In this recording, Christ speaks to her sin, speaks to her worship and speaks into her life which ultimately lands us in verse 25 of this chapter. Notice with me the text...

The Gospel of Saint John 4:25-30, ²⁵“The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” ²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him.”

This woman who had five different husbands and was quite promiscuous is radically transformed by her interaction with Christ and it was this one woman who birthed revival in her city!

Notice her words to the inhabitants of the city, **“Come and meet a man who told me everything I’ve ever done.”** She was liberated from the burden of her shame and the curse of her bad decisions and Jesus weaponized her bad decision by turning them into a testimony of what God can do in the life of a person whose life is falling apart. When our bad decisions can lead to our lives falling apart; when we turn our lives over to Christ, we will find those falling pieces to actually be falling into place.

- The Mistakes of your yesterday do not dictate the successes of your tomorrow!
- The Mistakes of your yesterday do not determine your capacity for a comeback!
- The Mistakes of your yesterday do not devalue your worth to His Kingdom! Point #3...

3. **The Holy Spirit has a Way of Turning Our Faults into His Fruitfulness**

In the Book of Acts chapter 2, when the day of Pentecost had fully come; the 120 of those who were in the Upper Room came down to the southern steps of the temple mount in Jerusalem where Peter stands and preaches to multiplied thousands of people. On that day, according to the text, 3,000 souls were added to the church and the Lord established His Church publicly. And it was on those southern steps that the Apostle

Peter stood and declared the first sermon; the very same Peter that some 60 days prior had denied the Lord and ran away from the Faith. How is it that of all that Christ could have used, He used the very same Peter that denied Him but then set him as the out to preach at Pentecost some 50 days later? Why? Because, church family, the man most broken was the man most qualified that day. God took a man who was ridden with mistakes and turned him into the man to preach the first Pentecostal message at the first Pentecostal church about the redemption of the souls of men and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

But notice, it took Jesus restoring him on the shore of Galilee that prepared him for the steps of the temple mount. The man who denied the Identity of Christ preached in the Power of Christ because Peter found his Identity in the Christ! And like Peter, it is time for many of you to find your Identity in Christ and not the identity that this world is seeking to define.

- Mistakes don't define the Call of God on our Lives
- Mistakes don't disqualify us from His Ministry
- Mistakes don't determine the impact of our Ministry