

THE NEWS ABOUT JESUS

You know news headlines used to change by the day, now it's by the minute

About 2 years ago we lost Eric Musselman. Then we heard the news about the much hated Kentucky coach John Calipari being hired. Now everyone loves him! News changes everything.

Matt 4:23-25 NIV Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis,^[a] Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

The thing about the news that made all the headlines and spread throughout Syria is still very big news today!

It's not only life changing but eternity changing!

Jesus preached the good news of the Kingdom and healing every sickness and disease among the people

The news about Him spread like wildfire and great miracles and deliverance spread everywhere, His fame went through Syria

My thought when reading this Friday morning was is this true in the church today? Is the news that's spreading everywhere all about Jesus?

Or is it focused on a preacher, a church, a celebrity, a program, or facility?

Why do I ask?

If the focus isn't on Jesus, then who or what is it on?

This week's news was SBC voted to not allow women to pastor. I disagree with, so does the AG, but I'm not going to jump on social media and try to divide His church

Guess what, we have other disagreements but serve the same God

When the focus isn't on Jesus, there's a huge difference. We're limited in what we can offer beyond talent, programs, polished sermons, lifeless singing, rehearsed worship, and empty teaching

That's when our differences become our battle lines. Religion is normalized and relationship is lost, prayers are powerless, and we settle for better while chained to our past instead of transformed into the image of Christ!

The news of Jesus spread so fast because it looked nothing like religion that was lifeless, powerless, and compassionless

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When the news is about Jesus people are saved, delivered, redeemed, transformed, healed, restored, set free, called, anointed, and equipped to do the same works and miracles He did!

John 14:12 NKJV "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

The church that focuses on Jesus and what He can do will be anointed to carry on the ministry of the Spirit He began

**Luke 4:18,19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to *the* poor;
He has sent Me ^[a]to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives
And recovery of sight to *the* blind,
To set at liberty those who are ^[b]oppressed;
¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."**

Jesus' ministry here was three-fold: teaching, preaching, and healing

Teaching in the synagogues explaining scripture and correcting false doctrine

Preaching – the long awaited King and His heavenly Kingdom was actively invading the earth

Healing – He validated His message with very tangible grace healing every sickness and disease and those demon possessed

He was proving both His deity and authority over the physical and spiritual realms

The news of Jesus exploded all over Syria and His fame spread quickly – the broken, hurting, and lost flocked to Him

Church, when our focus is on Jesus, it not only changes us, but impacts regions, states, countries, and the world

What's the news in your life?

Focusing on Jesus leaves less time to devalue others callings because we're busy discipling those Jesus has miraculously rescued and set free!

The news about Jesus changes us and others!

Mark 16:14-18 NKJV Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who ^[a]believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they ^[b]will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."