

## Sermon- In The Name of Jesus

Scripture: John 14:12-14

7/28/2019

Last Sunday we looked at Jesus' response to Apostle Phillips request, "show us the father". Jesus was responding by saying that if you've seen him you've seen the father. So we looked at what it meant when Jesus said he is in the father and the father is in him. I said that when you are talking about Jesus and the Father, the Bible is actually referring to two persons, who are within the Godhead. A person has a unique identity and will. So for Jesus to be in the Father and for the Father to be in Jesus it means that Jesus held on to his identity but bent his will to the Father's and the Father had his own identity but honored the will of the Son. The divine Father Son relationship is a beautiful and perfect example of equality within hierarchy. Understanding how Jesus the Son related to his Divine Father, enables us to understand both how we need to relate to our heavenly Father and also how we need to relate to each other within our own earthly relationships.

Now once Jesus explains this relationship to his heavenly Father he then goes on to explain the value of such a relationship. The value of such a Father Son relationship is explained in one electrifying statement after another. He tells them, because he's going to the Father, if anyone believes in Him, they will do the same works as Jesus Christ Himself and even greater works than that. As if that was not enough to blow anyone's mind He adds "you can ask anything in my name, I will do it". These statements have so much force that the words could literally blow a hole in the page when you read it. Yet I am sure that if you have heard them before, you have wondered, where have we seen people do greater things than Jesus? And it does not feel like we have the power to get anything we ask? There are so many prayers we have prayed where we are not sure why they are not answered yet. So that is what we are going to examine today.

The first thing to know is that, the opening of verse 12 in Greek begins with the famous “Amen, amen, lego hymin”, which King James readers will recognize as the phrase, “truly, truly I say to you”. Whenever you see the double Amen, this was Jesus’ way of saying, pay close attention, this is super important. Jesus was not kidding when He said, “if anyone believes in me, they will do the same works I have done and even greater works than these”.

But Jesus was careful to explain that the reason he Himself did the amazing things that He did was because of the embedded relationship that Jesus had with his divine Father.

Now Jesus Christ is telling them, you know what guys, that power I have, to do those amazing things I am going to make that available to you. What needs to happen to make that kind of power available to you all? First, Jesus himself has to return to his heavenly Father and send his Spirit into the world. Then, his disciples will have to receive his Spirit and have the same embedded relationship with his Heavenly Father. And then, boom, you will have that same kind of power that Jesus had to do things like Jesus did.

So the first thing you may have wondered is, “why is Jesus’ going to the Father, needed for the Holy Spirit to come? If you peak ahead John 16:7 says *“But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate<sup>[a]</sup> won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.”*

Well the way it works is this. You know that one of the attributes of God is that he is omnipresent. That means He is everywhere. But Jesus the Son of God who is also God had to limit himself into human form to come to the earth to do what he did. And when he was limited in human form he had to be like us, only in one place at a time. But when he went back to Heaven He takes back His divine nature fully. And in His divine nature he is once again omnipresent. And when he is omnipresent, He can send His Spirit anywhere and everywhere and that is what he does.

OK so the next question you may have is, what happens when the Holy Spirit does come and takes up residence in us? To understand that we must understand a bit about what the Bible says a person is. When you look at the creation of Adam, Gen 2:7 in the KJV version says this, *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”*. When you look at this creation account you see three components to a person, the body, the soul and the spirit. When God breathed his Spirit into the dust, his physical body became more than a body but a living soul.

So the person of Adam now consisted of his body which includes all his physical aspects including all his senses. His body gave him the awareness of the physical world he was placed in. Then Adam was given a soul, which was his mind. His mind was the seat of his reason, emotions and will. This gave Adam his self-consciousness. And finally, God gave Adam his spirit. This is the part of Adam that gave him his conscience or sense of right and wrong, his intuition or wisdom to make decisions and his ability to relate to God. In other words, it is Adam’s spirit that gives him his God consciousness. Three aspects to a human person, body, soul and spirit. These three aspects give us our physical world-awareness, our self-consciousness and our God-consciousness.

When sin crept into the world, it did not affect their awareness of the physical world or their self-consciences. Sin affected their God consciousness. They were no more able to relate to God as originally intended by God. Their spirit was dead.

But the Good News of the Gospel is that when we recognize our need for a Savior and believe Jesus Christ to be that Savior as God works in mysterious ways within our self consciousness, Jesus tells us that we are “born again”. The part of us that is taking birth is our spirit, that was once dead and is now alive. That means we now have a God consciousness and access to wisdom and a restored sense of right and wrong. This is what happens when the Holy Spirit comes into us and attaches itself to our spirit. The

Holy Spirit literally enables our spirit to come alive and connect with God. And when our spirit is born again then our time our mind is transformed as well. Romans 12:2 says *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

And if those transformations are not amazing enough, Jesus is saying a person like that who has become alive in their spirit can ask anything in Jesus' name and He will do it for them.

This is where you read the passage and you have to go back and wonder, did I read it right? Because this seems like a super big claim, but anyone who has been a Christ follower and prayed can tell you that they have had prayer requests in Jesus name and nothing seemingly has happened. Anybody experience what I am talking about? So what is going on here?

Well there are a couple of other passages that I want us to look at to see what is going on here. The first passage is in Mark 9 where Jesus has just come down from the Mount of transfiguration and they have had an amazing spiritual experience there. Then they come down and immediately the first thing they are confronted with is a boy who was demon possessed. Now the problem is that the boy was brought to the disciples first and the disciples were unable to heal the boy. The father of the boy then brings him to Jesus and explains the situation to him. Jesus rebukes the demon and the demon of course leaves the boy and the boy is healed. When the disciples then ask Jesus privately why they were not able to do what Jesus did, Jesus told them, this kind of demon only can be removed with prayer and fasting. So there is an implication that there is a spiritual intensity that was required in this process that his disciples did not have at the moment. File this story away in your mind and consider a second one.

In Acts 19 we have a very interesting story that takes place in Ephesus where Paul was doing some very powerful miracles, healing people and expelling evil spirits. Then along

comes a group of Jews. 7 sons of a prominent Jewish priest called Sceva. This group was going around casting out evil spirits from people. Now when they heard that Apostle Paul was very powerfully casting out demons in the name of Jesus they too began to use Paul's formula. So in one case they said, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out". Now it seems that it may have worked in some cases but scripture says, on one occasion when they tried it, the evil spirit who they were trying to expel spoke to them saying, "Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?" And then the man with the evil spirit jumped on them, overpowered them and attacked them with such violence that they had to run away from that house naked and battered.

Two instances in which evil spirits are trying to be expelled in the name of Jesus and it does not go as planned.

Well, Clearly in the case of the sons of Sceva the issue was that they personally did not know and have a relationship with our Lord Jesus and yet they were using the power of his name to do what they wanted. What we see in this case is that the evil spirit certainly did not listen to and obey their commands. Not because they did not know Jesus but because they did not recognize the speaker as the authorized representative of Christ. And if you are not the authorized representative you don't have the power to invoke the name you are invoking. It is like being a Toyota car dealer and trying to sell a Rolls Royce. You can talk about Rolls Royce's all you want but the customers know that you will not be able to produce a Rolls Royce because you are not authorized to represent Rolls Royce. So the first point I want to make here is that when you pray in the name of Jesus, what you are being allowed to do is to make petitions to the heavenly Father appealing to the authority and will of Jesus. You can only do this if you have a relationship with Jesus and have been authorized to use His authority. So make sure you have given your life to Jesus and have a real relationship with him, if not using the name of Jesus in any way could backfire badly.

The second thing is that when you pray in the name of Jesus you are also acting as a representative of Jesus' will. Kind of like having a "power of attorney" of Jesus Christ. In other words you are literally saying when you pray in Jesus name that this is something that Jesus would want. Now you cannot make that claim if you don't know Jesus well enough. So in this case, you could be "born again" and with that you now have the authority to use the name of Jesus, but you may still not know Jesus well enough to know His will. So the solution here is to focus on getting to know Jesus by reading all about him in Scripture and obeying whatever he tells you to do in the small things. Then you will begin to sense His will in bigger areas of your life. And then you can make petitions that you know are aligned to His will. So when you pray in the name of Jesus folk's make sure you have been given the authority to do that by having received Christ's spirit and being "born again". And then get to know your Savior personally like in any new relationship. His likes and dislikes, so that you can say with authority that you do know His will when you pray in Jesus name.

The third thing that I want to draw your attention to is that Jesus is saying, he will grant the petitions made in His name "so that the Son can bring glory to the Father". What that means is that, the petitions themselves have to meet this third criterion of enabling the Son to glorify the Father. So before we ask anything in Jesus name, we need to know our heavenly Father and Son well enough to know that your request enables the Son to glorify our Heavenly Father.

So what about actually doing greater things than Jesus Christ has done. Well, remember in Jesus lifetime He preached only to the people of Israel. After he left and sent his spirit, His disciples within one generation had already reached the other side of the globe. When Jesus was here he was one person doing amazing things. With Christ in heaven you have millions of people simultaneously acting in the power of Christs Spirit. Why would a million Christs not do greater things than what one Christ did? Now you may ask, what if you are authorized to speak in the name of Christ and you are sure that

what you ask is the will of Christ and that it will enable the Son to glorify the Father and you still do not seem to hear God answering that prayer? Well, at that point you simply trust that it is already been granted in faith because it is by faith alone that we please God.

When you ask you cannot waiver in your faith and God will come through in ways that will be beyond what you can ask or imagine. Let us pray.