

SERMON NOTES

OCTOBER 31/NOVEMBER 1, 2015

REACH: Making Him Famous

Selected Scriptures

Pastor Rick Countryman

No pagan god is like you, O Lord. None can do what you do! All the nations you made will come and bow before you, Lord; they will praise your holy name. For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God. Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you. With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever.
Psalm 86:8-12 (NLT)

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

“A godly life gives convincing testimony of the saving power of God.”

Dr. John MacArthur

2 Critical Questions

Q: Why make Jesus famous?

“As surely as I live,” says the Sovereign LORD, “I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?”

Ezekiel 33:11 (NLT)

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for your sins have brought you down.

Hosea 14:1 (NLT)

Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the LORD that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.
Isaiah 55:6-7 (NLT)

But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world... Then the King will turn to those on

the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons...’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.
Matthew 25:31-34; 41, 46 (NLT)

And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15 (NLT)

A: Jesus provides the only way to escape this **coming judgment**.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.
John 1:10-13 (NLT)

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

“What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.”
John 3:1-6 (NLT)

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.”

“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”
John 14:1-6 (NLT)

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.
John 20:30-31 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with

God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Romans 5:1 (NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (NLT)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. Romans 8:1-2 (NLT)

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. 1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT)

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days. 1 Peter 1:18-20 (NLT)

Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. 1 John 3:4-5 (NLT)

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13 (NLT)

Q: How do I make Jesus famous?

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news." Romans 10:13-15 (NLT)

This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?"

He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."

"Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"

"No," he replied.

"Are you the Prophet we are expecting?"

"No."

"Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Clear the way for the Lord's coming!'" John 1:19-23 (NLT)

"I am a voice..."

A: Live and talk in a way that honors Jesus.

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

"A godly life gives convincing testimony of the saving power of God"

Dr. John MacArthur

"I have more trouble with D.L. Moody than with any man I know."

D.L. Moody

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT)

So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers. Acts 16:5 (NIV)

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)

The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!"

John 1:35-36 (NLT)

DAILY MEDITATIONS

OCTOBER 31/NOVEMBER 1, 2015

Memory Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline. Which part of the sermon spoke to you? _____

What part of the sermon challenged you? _____

What change do you need to make in your life as a result of hearing the sermon? _____

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Acts 1:1-11. How many days did Jesus appear to the disciples after the resurrection? What did he speak about? _____

What command did Jesus give his disciples? _____

What did the disciples think Jesus was going to do? _____

How did Jesus answer the disciples question in verse 7? _____

What did Jesus say would give the disciples power? What were they to do with this power? _____

Describe a time when the Holy Spirit gave you the power/strength to witness. _____

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Acts 1:12-26. Who was present in the upstairs room? _____

What did they do, according to verse 14? _____

How many believers did Peter stand up in front of? What did he want to do? _____

What did the disciples do before they cast lots (v. 24)? Who was chosen to take Judas' place? _____

Describe a time when fervent prayer prepared you to do the Lord's work. _____

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Acts 2:1-13. Describe what happened in verses 1-3. _____

What happened when they were filled with the Holy Spirit? _____

Who was staying in Jerusalem, according to verses 5? Why did they gather together? _____

What amazed the crowd? _____

How did the opposition explain what happened (v.13)? How has opposition affected your willingness to witness? _____

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Acts 2:38-47. What did Peter tell the people in verse 38? _____

What promise did he give them? Who was this promise for? _____

How many were added to their number that day? _____

Read verses 42-47. How was the Acts church making Jesus' name famous? _____

How are you making Jesus' name famous in your sphere of influence? _____