

12/31/23 - SERIES: FOR EVERYONE (#4)

PASTOR NATE

Our Modern Era...
Inflection Point

... But Christianity Doesn't Change

First Christian Inflection Pt.

Peter/Apostles Filled With Holy Spirit

Authoritatively Spread The Word

- In this New Year of 2024, we are at a unique inflection point in this world. One factor: technology.....instant, world-wide communications, artificial intelligence, robotics, etc,so what are the next decades going to look like? Whatever, we know that we are in a great upheaval and one that affects the Church. In this dynamic and challenging environment that affects the Church in so many ways, how do we maintain our Christian faith? NOTE: AS THE WORLD CONTINUES TO CHANGE, CHRISTIANITY DOESN'T.....not our core message...not our bible, Christ's mission for us to spread the 'Word'... nothing changes! Amongst all the world's 'clutter, Jesus is still the only answer to humanity's sinful brokenness. Let's review the world's first major 'inflection point' in the Christian Church.
- First set the stage: after Jesus' death, only a few dozen Believers...in hiding trying to avoid danger....these few people represent the full extent of christianity in the world. If they stay hidden/bunkered down and silent, belief in Christ as the Son of god will inevitably and quickly die. But this core group, witnessing Jesus' strength, teachings, miracles, and resurrection from the dead, had undeniably strong faith. Despite this and despite knowing their mission to spread the Word all over.....they were still hiding.
- Indeed they needed a 'jolt' which came to them in the form of the Holy Spirit which Jesus had foretold and promised. A rushing wind....tongues of fire, etc.....and their instant ability to speak foreign languages...and so they emerge the room and begin spreading the word to all.

Acts 2: 5-8 and 12-13— - (5-8) Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in our own native language?" (12-13) And they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others, mocking, said "They are filled with new wine."

- So the disciples were using their newly appointed abilities to speak other languages and spread the Word. The crowd was representative of what the Church would become....people who shared the same Hebrew faith but spoke different languages and who came from all over the world. (Just as the Church today should be reaching out ((FOR EVERYONE)) to all parts of the world.
- Reacting to the wonderment of this amazed crowd, Peter (the heretofore hotheaded, doubting, denying Peter), stands with authority before this

befuddled group of Hebrews.....now filled with the Spirit, starts to preach about Christ:

Christ,.....
Lord & Savior,
As Prophesied

Crucified &
Resurrected

Call On The
Lord....
Believe &
Be Saved!

Spread The
Message!
(Then and
now)

- Acts 2: 14-24- - But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them : "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour (9:00 am) of the day. But this is what was uttered by the prophet Joel: " And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I shall show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. **AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.** Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him your midst, as you yourselves know- this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it."
- Peter, with authority then, talks about Jesus...who He was....what He did.....that He was the fulfillment of prophesy...that He died and rose from the dead (and, by the way, you killed Him!!!).
- Peter understands something **EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE TO TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS!** In that moment, Peter was that person.....and this is the very start of the Church!
- And equally applicable today, the message still needs to go forth....we...and the Church as a whole.....need to realize that there are so many who still need someone to tell them of Jesus and His saving grace. Peter concludes:

JESUS;
Lord And
Christ

- Acts 2:36- - "Let the house of Israeli therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."
- Jesus....the heart of Peter's message and the heart of our message today: JESUS!!!!!!! We need to learn about Him...the whole picture...How? By reading the Bible. Our Church has a tailored plan on You Version Bible app to read entire bible in one year.....use it!

Repent e'
Be Baptized

- Acts 2:37-39— - (37)Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (38) And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) For the promise is for you and for your children and for all that are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself."

Truth: Real
Repentance =
Changed
Behavior

- Hearing these words, the people came convicted and repented. Repentance = turning away from sin and pursuing Jesus. Repentance e is a strong word that was difficult to accept then and maybe even more today. Pastor Nate relates about the 'campus' and 'street' preachers crying repentance.....that focuses on condemnation.....not the true message of Jesus and salvation. We do need to repent but in the context of pursuing Jesus...recognizing our sinfulness but pursuing Him to the fullest.

Baptism =
Declaration
of Faith

- Beyond repentance, Peter refers to baptism...why important? Because both are based on truth....that is Jesus. Remember Verse 21.... 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'! In doing so, you recognize you are in need of salvation... you repent...and you reinforce/demonstrate all this in an outward expression (Baptism). Note: Baptism in and of itself doesn't save you...see Eph 2:8-9..... For by grace you have been saved through faith...it is not your own doing, it is a gift of God, not as result of works so that no one may boast.....or..... Gal. 2:16: Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And lastly, John 3:16: for God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

FAITH SAVES!

- So Baptism is a sign of salvation...not the cause...which is faith in Jesus Christ.

God's 3 Gifts

- Gifts of God: 1. HIS CALLING. We take His message to the world but we are not the ones convincing people to repent or believe. See Verse 39 above....God calls! Gift #2...the gift of FORGIVENESS: sin without God's forgiveness is an insurmountable barrier! Gift #3: the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT....that is His Spirit that transforms us....giving us strength as well as the power to go out and promulgate Christ. When you place your faith and trust in Christ, you are given this gift!

- Mission: With these gifts, we are led to the mission to tell others about Jesus!

Our Mission
Today:

Witness To
The Truth!

Acts 2:40-41 - - And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that layabout three thousand souls.

- Peter told people about Jesus then....we do now!!!! We all have the opportunity!!!
- Tell them 3 simple things that constitutes our Gospel: 1. We are all sinners; 2. Jesus is the Savior; and 3. We need to trust in Him.
- Deliver your own testimony! Pastor Nate relates the inspiring mission story about John Chau (martyr) and his faith. Bottomline: John Chau knew that everyone needs someone to tell them about Jesus....in our own way/world, we need to take up that mantle and take advantage of opportunities to talk/teach about Jesus.

Everyone Needs Someone To Tell Them About Jesus