

Do you know who Jesus is?

October 22, 2017

Sermon by Pastor Diana J. Perkins

Have you ever stopped to think about all the facts about Jesus that we can learn from the Bible, from nature, from songs, and all the sermons that we have heard over the years yet it never gets old? I never tire of hearing about Jesus, the works that he did on earth and the gift of salvation that he has extended to everyone that believes. The amazing thing about him is that he has continued to watch over his creation from the beginning of time and he will continue to watch over all that he created forever. Eternity is in the hearts of every person who ever lived and who will be born in the future. People spend thousands of dollars trying to extend their lives on earth. Skin products, gyms and home gym equipment, diets, cosmetic surgery and vitamin supplements are just some of the things that people use to extend their lives. Yet 100 % of the people born die at some point. There is no escaping death for sin brought the curse of death into the earth and there is no escape. Age starts at the point of conception and at birth the certificate records the time, the date, and the year of that birth and we say, “The baby is one day OLD” and that continues until God’s appointed time for that child to die. The death certificate lists the time, the day, and the year that the child died and we say how OLD he was when his life ended on earth.

Hebrews 9:27 says this, “It is appointed unto man to die once and after that the judgment.” I read an article once of a scientist who advertised that he would freeze bodies and when the secret of life was discovered sometime in the future these bodies would be brought back to life. Of course there was a large sum of money attached to the process, but I have often wondered if anyone was foolish enough to invest in this scheme.

Only God gives life and humans will never be able to breathe life into anything and cause it to live. God only has the power to give life and to sustain it.

This morning I want to talk about Jesus and the wonderful ways in which he revealed himself to his creation during his short earthly span. Thirty three years the earth was blessed by his presence and the majority of the people didn’t recognize him, they rejected him, abused him and in the end crucified him. Satan has deceived people from the beginning of time since he lied to Eve in the Garden of Eden and she fell for his lie. Every generation has been deceived by Satan and the world hates God because he has the power to rule over their lives. They want to be self-sufficient and Satan tempts mankind with all types of ways in which to rebel against our creator. He promises all kinds of things to people but in the end there is destruction ahead for all who will follow him into hell because they refuse to accept the truth of the gospel that they may have eternal life.

Turn to your Bibles to John chapter 10. Jesus said that he tells us the truth! Anyone who tries to enter the sheep pen by any means other than the gate, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The watchman opens the gate

for him and the sheep listen for his voice. He calls his sheep by name and he leads them out. When he has brought out all of his own, he goes ahead of them and they follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact they will run away from a stranger because they will not recognize a stranger's voice.

Jesus gave this illustration because people were lacking understanding concerning his words. He explained that he is the gate and all who claimed to be the messiah before him and those who would claim it after him are strangers and God's people will refuse to follow them. Jesus said that he is the gate and all who enter through him will be saved. He will come in and find pasture. False shepherds are thieves that come only to steal and kill and destroy. Jesus came that we may have life and have it more abundantly.

Jesus called himself the good shepherd and the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. There are those who care nothing for others but only for themselves and because they are hired hands and don't own the sheep, they run away and abandon the sheep when the wolves come. The wolves attack the sheep and scatter them.

Jesus knows those who are his and they know him. He would give his life for his sheep, (the Jews) and also he had other sheep (the Gentiles) that would also come into the fold and there would be one shepherd and one flock. He said that his Father loves him because he willingly lays down his life for his sheep and he would also take it up again. See John 10:17. He stated that no one took it away from him; he laid it down on his own accord for he has authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command was given to him by his Father.

The Jews tried to convince people that Jesus was demon possessed and out of his mind. Yet Jesus pointed out that demons could not open the eyes of the blind. The Jews confronted Jesus over and over again telling him to speak plainly if he was the Messiah. Jesus answered that he had told them plainly and they refused to believe. The miracles that Jesus performed were direct proof of his identity, yet the Jews rejected him. Jesus told them that the reason they would not believe was because they were not his sheep. His sheep were drawn to him and they listened to his voice and followed him. In verse 23 of chapter 10 of John, Jesus said that he give eternal life and they shall never perish and no one can snatch them out of his Father's hands. Jesus and his Father are one.

The Jews picked up stones to throw at Jesus. Jesus said "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?"

The Jews said they were not stoning him for doing miracles but for claiming to be deity when they believed he was a mere man. They charged him with blasphemy. Jesus explained that his deeds and working of miracles proved that he is the Son of God and even if they didn't believe him because he was born to Mary and had an earthly family, yet the fact that he did miracles that fulfilled prophecies stated in the Old Testament, they should accept him on that basis. He stated "The Father is in me and I am in the Father."

Once again they tried to seize him, but he escaped from their grasp.

Jesus returned to Jordon where John had baptized and preached to the people concerning the coming Messiah. The people received Jesus and said, "Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true." Many of them believed on Jesus.

In John 9, Jesus opened the eyes of a blind man by applying a mud cake on his eyes and sending him to go wash in the pool of Siloam. The man obeyed Jesus and he was healed of blindness. The Jews were angry because Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath.

The Jews realized that people were following Jesus and believing on his teachings. They felt that their culture, their laws, and the upper hand that they had over the people were in grave danger. The Pharisees interrogated the man asking who had healed him and seeking details of the healing. The people were divided on their assessment of what had taken place. Some admitted that it was the man they saw daily begging for money because he was blind; others even denied it was the same man; perhaps it was someone who merely looked like him. They didn't want to believe the truth that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Pharisees tried to persuade the man to believe that Jesus was a sinner because he did the miracle on the Sabbath. The man's parents were afraid of being thrown out of the synagogue, so they avoided answering any questions other than acknowledging that the man was their son and he had been born blind. The healed man didn't hesitate to give his story and to proclaim that he didn't know whether or not Jesus was a sinner but one thing he did know was that once he was blind and now he could see. As the Pharisees continued to badger him with questions about his healing, he told them, "I have given you my account of the story. You didn't listen to it the other times so why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become one of his disciples also?"

The Jews hurled insults at the man saying that he was a disciple of Jesus; they were disciples of Moses. They knew that God spoke to Moses but for this fellow, they didn't even know where he came from." The man's insight concerning the matter increased so he said, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from yet he healed my eyes. Now we know that God doesn't listen to sinners. He listens to the godly that do his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of the blind. If this man was not of God, he could do nothing." Because he spoke the truth and the Pharisees had logical argument for it, they told him that he was steeped in sin at birth and they asked him how he dared to lecture them. They threw him out of the synagogue. Jesus went to him and asked him if he believed on the Son of Man. He replied, "Who is he? Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus told him that he that was speaking to him was the Messiah. The man confessed that he did believe and he worshipped him.

Jesus said that for judgment he came into the world so that those who could see would be blinded and those who were blinded would be able to see. The Pharisees heard those words and asked Jesus if they were blind also. Jesus told them that if they were blind they would not be guilty of sin, but because they claimed to see, their guilt remained.

Jesus came to bring truth to those who walked in darkness. The Jews had tampered with the Law of Moses and the people were being led in a wrong direction. There was corruption in the synagogues. The place of worship had been turned into a house of merchandising. The merchants were selling animals and birds at inflated prices so they could get wealthy from the people who bought them. They had man made rules and regulations that were not what God had intended for the people to go by and Jesus came to enlighten them and to free them from the bondages of man- made religion.

When Nicodemus came to Jesus that night, he acknowledged that Jesus was a teacher who came from God because no one could do the things that Jesus did except God was with him. Jesus answered, “ I tell you the truth; no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” Nicodemus asked how that could happen; could a man return to his mother’s womb and be born again? People think and understand with natural senses; only God’s spirit opens up his word so that we can understand spiritual things. Nicodemus was a ruler and teacher of the Jews and Jesus explained that a person must have a natural birth and also must be born of the spirit. Flesh is born of flesh, but the spirit is born of spirit. He told Nicodemus that he shouldn’t be surprised that there are two births. Jesus spoke that Moses lifted up the serpent for the healing of the people when the plague killed so many of them while they were in the desert. Likewise, the Son of man must also be lifted up that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. John 3:16 says “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes on him should not perish but have eternal life.” Jesus blood bought salvation for all who believe.

God didn’t send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but those who refuse to believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. The verdict is this: Light has come into the world but men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come to the light for fear of their deeds being exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

In John 14, Jesus said not to let our hearts be troubled; trust in God; trust also in him. In Jesus’ father’s house are many mansions. If it was not true, he would have told us. He has gone there to prepare a place for believers and he promised that he would come back again and take us to be with him forever. He told his disciples that they knew the place where he was going. Thomas answered, “Lord we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus said, “ I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you would know my Father as well. From now on you do know him for you have seen him.” He then went on to explain to Philip that he is deity clothed in human form. Amazing! Amazing!