

Sermon Outline May 5, 2013
“Focused Following of Christ” Luke 9:20-27

I. *God’s Word is better than a map, it directs us in the paths of Christ –*

1. *Fact, many people are LOST both about and without Christ –*
 - A. *They do not know WHO or WHAT He is – Luke 9:7-9; Luke 9:18-18*
 - B. *They are blinded by Satan “the god of this age” - 2 Corinthians 4:4*
 - C. *God’s Word comes to some, as Jesus said, “in parables, that `Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.” (Luke 8:10 NKJ)*
2. *Yet, to God’s people the WORD, truth about CHRIST is GIVEN, yet we can be hit and miss about how we understand it –*

See for example –

A. *Peter’s HIT –*

¹⁶ **Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** ¹⁷ **Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 16:16-17 NKJ)**

B. *Peter’s MISS –*

²¹ **From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.** ²² **Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"** ²³ **But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."** (Matthew 16:21-23 NKJ)

3. *Consider just part of what Scripture, even the Old Testament teaches us about Jesus as THE CHRIST, MESSIAH, ANOINTED ONE –*

- A. *Christ, as the Anointed One & (the Express image of the invisible God) had as His mission; to come, to live to die and to*

rise from the dead - that we might be re-created in God’s image – and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, (Colossians 3:10 NKJ)

and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:24 NKJ)

- *Knowledge, righteousness and holiness are how we are created in God’s image. These things should separate us from the animals:*
- *Knowledge of God*
- *Righteousness according to God’s law*
- *Holiness meaning a sanctified loyalty and love for God*

- *When we fell, knowledge was distorted into ignorance, righteousness to sin and holiness turned into idolatry ...*

- *In order to encourage the image of God in man in Old Testament times God provided Israel three anointed offices:*

Prophets – in relation to knowledge

Priests – to offer sacrifices for sin and provide a level of righteousness

Kings – who were to rule and protect God’s people and keep them from idolatry -

¹⁰ **The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:10 NKJ)**

¹³ **Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.** ¹⁴ **Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; (Isaiah 52:13-14 NKJ)**

¹⁴ **Just as there were many who were appalled at him-- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness-- (Isaiah 52:14 NIV)**

What is Isaiah 52:14 talking about? The beating Jesus would take before He took the cross, how it physically disfigured Him (His face) ... and / or the shame, disfiguring brought to the image of God in men by sin ... The Best Answer is BOTH!

Before we can put on the New Man Christ, we have to get rid of the old –

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5 NKJ)

²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (Luke 9:23 NKJ)

II. *God's Holy Spirit is better than a GPS, He speaks to us about the Ways and Kingdom of Christ and does much, much more –*

The word "Christ" because it means Anointed One (meaning anointed by the Holy Spirit) means the word "Christian" identifies us not only with Jesus but with the same Holy Spirit He was Anointed with –

1. *The Holy Spirit was BIG in Christ's earthly walk – The BIG-ness (importance) of the Holy Spirit is seen in His work in the life of Jesus Christ*

(1) The Holy Spirit formed Christ's human body in the womb of the virgin Mary – Luke 1:31 & :35

(2) The Holy Spirit endowed Christ with all spiritual graces – Isaiah 11:1-3

(3) The Holy Spirit anoints Jesus Christ at the beginning of His earthly ministry: His title Christ means "the Anointed One" therefore His most popular title is one taken from the Spirit's influence on His life and ministry – Isaiah 61:1-3; Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:29-34 ... As I have already said this title rolls into one the three "anointed" offices of the Old Testament: Prophet – Acts 3:22, Priest – Hebrews 7:17 & 23-28 and King – Revelation 17:14

(4) The Holy Spirit "led" our Lord Jesus Christ – Mathew 4:1

(5) The Holy Spirit is the Power behind our Lord's casting out of demons – Matthew 12:24-32

(6) The Holy Spirit "the Eternal Spirit" is the Power behind Christ taking up the cross as a Holy Sacrifice for our sins – Hebrews 9:14

(7) "The Holy Spirit is the great Power behind Christ's resurrection from the dead – Romans 8:11

2. *If He was BIG for Jesus, He has to be BIG for us too –*
But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11 NKJ)

(1) We cannot SEE at all without Him –
Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

(2) We cannot get in without Him -
Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5 NKJ)

(3) His presence is an absolute necessity –
"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:7 NKJ)

A. *Even as believers, our natural ways are not right without His presence – Galatians 5:16-23*

B. *It is only by the Holy Spirit we are taught the beauty and power of the cross – 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 2:16*

C. *It is only by the Holy Spirit we are enabled to take up the cross and follow Christ closely –*

²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. ²⁵ "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?
(Luke 9:23-25 NKJ)

- *Pray the Holy Spirit enables you to SEE clearly, even the invisible things of God – Ephesians 1:13 & 15-18*

- *Pray the Holy Spirit enable you to race, even run for Him – 1Corinthians 9:24-27; Isaiah 40:31*

If we were driving to Heaven, God's Holy Spirit would not only be our GPS guiding us and comforting us on the way (with His Sweet Voice) but He is also our Window Washing fluid, clearing our vision of the dirt of sin --- and our Gasoline ... empowering us to GO! (actually better than these things too)

Without him we are pushing our very heavy car through the MUD and ill weather of this world, with Him, we can FLY ... Luke 11:9-13

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