

What Is Jesus Doing Today? (#29)

Romans 5:10

There is something which makes Christianity more than a religion, rather than an ethic, and more than the idle dream of the sentimental idealist. It is something which makes it relevant to each, one of us right now as a contemporary experience. It is the fact that, Christ Himself is the very life content of the Christian faith. It is He who makes it "tick," as seen in 1 Thessalonians 5:24, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." The One who calls you who is the One who does that to which He calls you to do, as seen in Philippians 2:13, "For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure." **Jesus Christ is Himself the very dynamic of all His demands!**

Christ did not die simply that you might be saved from a bad conscience, or even to remove the stain of past failure, but to prepare your life for divine action. You have been told that Christ died to save you. And that is gloriously true! But Romans 5:10 tells us that there is more to that great truth, "If, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, *much more*, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." **The truth of the matter is that Jesus Christ ministers to us in two very distinct ways; He reconciles us to God by His death, and He saves us by His life.**

Therefore, look with me as we look at the implications of this great truth. The very first word of the Gospel is a word of reconciliation, as seen in 2 Corinthians 5:20, which says that "we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." This word "reconciliation" is the call to the sinner to be at peace with God. **But how is it possible that fallen humanity can be a peace with a Holy God?** 2 Corinthians 5:19 tells that it is by virtue of the fact that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself."

God in righteousness has no option but to find the lost person guilty as a sinner and pass upon them the sentence of death, the forfeiture of His Holy Spirit, and alienation from the life of God – by nature dead in trespasses and sins. But more than 2000 years ago, God in Christ stepped out of eternity into time, and because of His finished work at Calvary, extends to you and me the nail-pierced hands, as One who suffered, as Peter put it in 1 Peter 3:18 "the just for the unjust." And he continues in 1 Peter 2:24 that "He bore our sins in his own body on the tree."

That, however, is just the beginning of the story, “for if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, (now an accomplished fact,) we shall be saved (as a continuing process) by His life.”

To get the picture of what I am trying to say, I want you to go with me in your mind to Mark 5:21-43, where we have been told about a woman who had an issue of blood, and how she fought her way through the crowd, so she could touch the hem of Jesus' garment and be healed. I will not take the time to read the whole, but I want to draw your attention to the 28th verse, "For she *said*, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be well."

Now, listen very carefully, in her own timid way this woman had "spoken her faith," but in that whole massive crowd of people, there was only one man – only one - who could bring that woman's words to pass. She had worked her way through hundreds of people as she moved toward Jesus that day, and her confession of faith was strong every step of the way. Yet nothing happened until she got to Jesus. He was the only one who had the power to make her whole.

A great many Christians look back on that story today and wish they were able to touch Jesus the way that woman did. They think, "Oh, if He were only here, if I could only take hold of His garment, I know my prayer would be answered." **They fail to have faith because they don't understand where Jesus is and what He is doing right now on their behalf.**

And this is what I want you to see tonight, as we look at this great truth that is shown for us in Romans 5:10. It is a simple truth; but if you will allow the Lord to reveal it to you, it will turn you into such a spiritual power-house that no situation, no storm of life, will be able to overcome you.

To better understand what we have been told in Romans 5:10, look with me for a moment at Hebrews 3:1, where we have been told, "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." **Romans 5:10 can only be understood as we understand the apostleship and priesthood of Jesus Christ.**

Most of us have a misconception of the word "apostle." We think of an "apostle" as some kind of biblical "super-saint." But "apostle" actually has a very simple definition. It means "sent one." So, Jesus Christ is the “Sent One.”

He has been sent by God to do something for us. But what has He been sent to do?

The second word answers that question. And that word is “High Priest.” Jesus Christ has been sent to serve as our "High Priest." **Once more, this is where many Christians get confused. We don't really have any idea what a high priest does.** When we think of “high priest,” many of us start picturing a person in strange clothes walking around performing religious rituals. **That is the only kind of priest most of us know anything about.**

But, we have been told in Hebrews 5:5-10, "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest, but he said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek; Who, in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared, though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author, of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him, Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedek." **The kind of "high priest" that the writer of Hebrews is referring to here is one that is authorized to administer, to execute, to implement, and to carry into effect. Now don't just breeze over that. Think about it. What we need to see is this – What is it that Jesus, as our High Priest, is authorized to administer, to execute, or to carry into effect in our behalf?**

The answer to that question will forever change the way we speak to God and the way we speak to others. Look once more at Hebrews 3:1, as we study this matter together.

There it says that Jesus is the "High Priest" of our "confession." Just as Jesus carried out the words of faith spoken by the woman with the issue of blood, He has now been sent as our High Priest to put into effect, to execute, and to carry out the words that we say. Now ask yourself this: "What words have I been saying?"

Chances are, instead of speaking words of faith, you have been doing what I did for so many years, and saying whatever you are *feeling* at the moment - even in your prayers. You know how it goes, “God, I am so sick. Please help me. Lord, you know I believe in healing. I'm not one of those who think it has passed away. But I am so sick, I feel like I am about to die. Please God help me.”

But once we realize that Jesus is our High Priest – sent to execute and bring into effect our confession - we will instantly see why such prayers will not work. We will see that there are certain words that Jesus can be Priest over, and certain words that He cannot.

If, for example, we are speaking sickness, what is Jesus going to do with that? He is not High Priest over sickness. Therefore, He can't execute that.

Now listen very carefully, some Christians have the idea that Jesus will fight off their sickness for them, that He will fight off sin, or poverty. But Jesus isn't fighting anymore. He came to the earth over 2,000 years ago as a Warrior to confront the devil; and when He did; He defeated him and won back everything that he had stolen from mankind. Isaiah 59:16-17 describes the supernatural armor He wore when He was here. But He is not wearing that armor anymore.

Do you know who is wearing that armor today? We are! Listen to Ephesians 6:11, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Jesus says to us today, "You take the whole armor of God. You put it on! I have already defeated the devil and stripped him of his authority. Now it is up to you to wear the armor and enforce My victory."

Jesus doesn't need to fight the devil anymore. He has already won the victory. He is now sitting at the right hand of God in priestly garments ready to execute and to bring into effect what we say.

Why, then, are we talking to Him about sickness? He is not High Priest over sickness. The High Priest's job is to administer, to carry into effect. **Jesus is not going to administer sickness, or disease or poverty or sin. He has defeated all that.** He is not having any more to do with it. **He is Lord over it all.**

So what is Jesus "High Priest" over? Jesus is High Priest over salvation. He is High Priest over deliverance and righteousness and freedom. **He is High Priest over healing.**

Therefore, when we come before Jesus, we need to put all of the devil's junk behind us. Instead of talking about sin, sickness, and bondage, we need to speak life, health, and deliverance. We need to *speak* things that Jesus can implement, things He has been ordained by God to bring to pass in our lives.

Now we need to be real careful right here, because speaking your faith is not an attempt to create a false reality, nor is it simply speaking positively. Speaking our faith is no more than speaking the promises of God's Word over our present circumstances. 2 Corinthians 4:13 says, "We, having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak."

For example, the Bible doesn't say, "Let the weak confess how weak they are." **No.** It says in Joel 3:10, "...let the weak say, I am strong." Psalm 54:7 says, "For he hath delivered me out of all trouble." Isaiah 54:17 says, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper..." Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24 reminds us that "by His stripes we are healed." Psalm 107:2 says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so..."

Why does the Bible say that? Because Jesus is the High Priest to implement our words of faith based on the Word of God.

Once we understand this great truth, we will see why so many of our prayers have gone unanswered. It is because we have failed to continue to hold up to our High Priest words that He can bring to pass in our everyday living.

There are two great agencies in our lives - God and Satan. Certain things come under the *devil's operation*. Sickness, disease, poverty, abuse, etc all come under his agency. **He is their agent. He is an agent of poverty.** He is an agent of sin and death. **He carries into effect everything that is a part of the curse.**

Then, on the other side, there is the agency of God. It carries into effect all the blessings of God. You don't find any illness in heaven. **You don't find any poverty in heaven. So you won't find Jesus carrying into effect any of those things here.**

Most people do not understand this great truth. And it is because of what they have heard from the pulpit. Many of you were raised believing that God puts sickness, or poverty, or failure, or even natural disasters in the lives of Christians simply to punish them for some sin they have committed.

But that is not what the Bible teaches. I take you back again to Romans 4:6-8, "Even as David also described the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness apart from works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord

will not impute sin.” I John 1:7 reminds us that “the blood of Jesus Christ, (God’s) Son, cleanses us from all sin.” Psalm 103:12 says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” God says this in Isaiah 43:25, “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for my sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

Child of God, the reason God does not “impute” (charge) our sins to us is because they have been “covered” “blotted out” “cleansed” by “the blood of Jesus Christ, (God’s) Son.” **Therefore, if my sins have been “imputed” or “charged” to Jesus, then it is a biblical fact that God would not punish me for something Jesus has already taken care of!**

So what are we to do when we are faced with those difficult circumstances that Satan tries to use to defeat us? Hebrews 4:16 tells us that we are to "come boldly before the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Please notice that we are *not* told to come to the throne of God crying and whining, but to “come *boldly* before the throne of grace.” **Do you know how to come before the throne of God *boldly*? You come by faith, standing on the Word of God.**

Child of God, it does not matter what others are saying. It doesn’t matter what preachers are preaching. It doesn’t matter what the world thinks. Find your promise in the Word and take it before our High Priest and allow Him to execute it for His glory!

If you are not saved, why not tonight?