SERMON NOTES The Gift of a Savour - December 8 - Pastor Peter

Matthew 1:18-21

"This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Acts 4:12 "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

1. Jesus Saves

The angel tells Joseph to give the Baby the name Jesus. Because in that name is revealed the divine purpose for which Jesus' came.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the name Jesus mean?

2. Why do we need to be saved?

3. What is our true value?

Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua. The name Joshua means, 'Yahweh or Jehovah is salvation' or 'Jehovah saves.'

There are two Joshua's in the Old Testament. One Joshua leads God's people into the Promised Land. The other Joshua is a high priest.

Jesus, our Saviour lead His people into the spiritual promised land. He will win battles and break down walls. Through Him His people will overcome. He will represent His people before the Lord. He is the Branch, the source of all their strength. Through Him He will build the temple of the Lord in their hearts. And in doing all of this He will save.

2. We Need to be Saved

Rom. 3:23 "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

And every person who's lost needs to be saved.

Everybody has Value

Luke 15:4,5 "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he

4. Why do you
think sometimes
our perceived
value differs from
our real value?

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arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'"

Our Saviour leaves Heaven to find the one that's lost.

The fall of humanity happens in Gen. 3.

Gen. 3:8,9 "When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, 'Where are you?"

Notice the very first words that God says to this couple trying to hide from Him.

He asks a question to make it crystal clear that, at the very inception of human sin, in spite of the offence, He will always seek to have relationship with the people He creates.

Our true value is found in the fact that Jesus loves you so much that He came to this earth and He gave His life for us so we could be found by Him.

3. Jesus Saves His People

1 Peter 2:9,10 "You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of

1. How does Jesus
involve the people
around him to
participate and
witness the miracle
on Lazarus?

2.	How is the
mir	acle of Lazarus a
cata	alyst for people to
beli	ieve in Jesus?

3.	How does that
anı	nly today to us?

the darkness into His wonderful light. Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

We Had No Identity

Before knowing God, we had no identity as a people.

Peter isn't talking about our being, he's talking about our belonging. If we don't know Jesus we're not participants in His kingdom by faith.

Our True Identity

But when we accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord we realize our true identity.

We're His people and He knows who we are.

Luke 8:43-48 "A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and she could find no cure. Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of His robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped. 'Who touched me?' Jesus asked. Everyone denied it, and Peter said, 'Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you.' But Jesus said, 'Someone deliberately touched Me, for I felt healing power go out from Me.' When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of

5. What was our
identity before we
met Jesus?

6.	Wh	at i	s o	ur	•
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Him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched Him and that she had been immediately healed. 'Daughter,' He said to her, 'your faith has made you well. Go in peace.'"

Up until she meets Jesus, this woman's issue is her identity.

At the end of the story Jesus calls her, 'Daughter.' This is the only time in the NT where Jesus calls somebody 'daughter.' Her issue is no longer her identity - being part of Jesus' family is now her identity.

Rom. 8:15-17 "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, 'Abba, Father.'For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory."

4. Jesus Saves His People From Their Sin

Sin can be defined as falling short of what God intends for us. Sin is rooted in selfishness.

7 .	Why is the
dif	fference
be	tween both
im	portant?

8	Wha	ıt is	sin?

10	Why do we
nee	ed to be saved
fro	m it?

Jer. 17:9 "The human heart is the most deceitful
of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really
knows how bad it is?"

Isa. 64:6 "We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind."

So what about sin are we saved from?

Saved From The Result of Sin

Jesus saves us from the result of sin. He lived and He died so that the relationship between God and humanity can be healed.

Eph. 1:7 "Since we are now joined to Christ, we have been given the treasures of redemption by His blood - the total cancellation of our sins - all because of the cascading riches of His grace." The consequence of sin, separation from God, is overcome by the blood of Jesus' sacrifice.

Saved From The Control of Sin

Rom. 6:14 "Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace."

QUESTIONS:		
11. How do Jesus save us from it?		

God's grace is working in us to help us become more like Jesus.

Putting it all together

- 1. The meaning of the name. God ordered Joseph to name the baby Jesus. This name has a meaning. It reveals a purpose. He is going to be the Saviour of humanity. We need to be redeemed. That is why Jesus came, that is why his name is Jesus "Jehovah is salvation" or 'Jehovah saves".
- 2. With the name comes the identity. We are not just saved and then left aside to do what we please. We have been bought out of slavery from sin at a high price. We are no longer slaves of our sins; we now as free men and women have a new identity. This identity is not defined by us but by who freed us. His name is Jesus. And he says we are his chosen people (identity), a holy nation (sense of belonging), God's very owns possession to show others the goodness of God (fruits of who we are).
- 3. He has set us free. We now follow him into what he has prepared for us, no longer subject to the result of sin or the control of sin. By breaking free from the grasp of sin we are now able to have a meaningful and truthful relationship with God. And this relationship is based on trust, obedience and faithfulness. It gets stronger as we lean into it and as we do, we

are transformed into more like Jesus and less like the person we were before we surrendered our lives to him.	
ACTION STEPS:	