

Luke 4

“Preached Word”

4th Sunday af. Epiphany

February 3, 2019

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Pastor Hartwig

Grace, mercy, and peace from God, our Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

[Introduction]

“Preachers” are called to speak God’s Word.

Jesus was a preacher.

When Jesus preached, He spoke God’s Word.

But unlike all of the other prophets,

the Word He preached was not given to Him by the Lord,

He is the Lord, He is the Word.

And He has been preaching the Word from the beginning of the world.

“And God said, let there be light.. And it was so.”

How’s that for preaching?

Nothing happened apart from the Word preached.

But look what happens when it is. A new creation.

Jesus is truly THE man of His word.

He is the Word made man.

There is no disconnect between what He says and what He does.

When Jesus preaches a sermon He is really preaching Himself.

[Jesus Preaching]

“Preachers” are called to speak God’s Word.

And according to St. Luke,

the first place that Jesus goes to preach is His hometown of Nazareth.

He preached in the Synagogue and the people rejected His preaching

which is to reject Jesus Himself.

They tried to throw Him over a cliff.

But He walked safely through the midst of them

like Israel walking safely through the midst of the sea.

From Nazareth He went to Capernaum.

AND on the Sabbath, He went in to the Synagogue and preached.

“Preachers” are called to speak God’s Word.

At first, they were all “astonished... for his word possessed authority.”
They were shocked, confused, and even upset,
because unlike all of the other preachers who would begin by saying,
“the Lord spoke to me,” or “thus says the Lord,”
Jesus said, “truly, truly, I say.” (*Amen, Amen, Lego*)

BUT there was a man in the congregation who had “the spirit of an unclean demon.”
The demon immediately connected the Word Jesus was preaching
to the Person of Christ. ***“I know who you are, the holy one of God.”***

“Have you come to destroy us?”
“Jesus REBUKED him saying, ‘Be silent and come out of him!’”

Notice the first thing that Jesus does. He takes away the demon’s speech.
He knows how powerful words can be, even words that are pure lies.
Words like, “you will not surely die.”

“Be silent!” That’s what the first Adam should have said to the serpent when it
“PREACHED” to his wife.

Just as Jesus had done in the beginning,
the preacher was preaching light into the darkness and separating the two,
the darkness unto hell and the light unto life. “And it was so.”

“Be silent and come out of him.”
And the demon and the man were separated.
And now, the crowd is AMAZED.

And they began to speak to one another. “What is this WORD?
For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits and they come out!”
His Word does just what it says. He is all talk and all action.

“Preachers” are called to speak God’s Word.
From the Synagogue, Jesus makes a house call on Simon Peter’s mother-in-law.
She wasn’t at church because she was sick in bed with a fever.
Not just a ‘fever,’ but a ‘high fever.’

“Jesus stood over her and REBUKED the fever.”
He spoke to the fever in the same way that He spoke to the demon.

He doesn't rebuke her,

“you should have gotten a flu shot and taken better care of yourself.”

He just rebukes the fever and it left her.

And not just gradually or after a few days.

“Immediately she rose and began to serve them.”

He preaches as one with real authority.

And the word got out that a real preacher was in town.

So they waited for the sun to set

because that was the end of the Sabbath

and they came to Him, who is the true Sabbath.

“Those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.”

“EVERY ONE OF THEM.”

Not one was missed or overlooked or refused.

Not one went away disappointed.

Not one was NOT healed. Every one of them, including you.

In Nazareth,

the congregation said, ‘don't preach to us,’ and tried to throw Him off a cliff.

In Capernaum,

they begged Him to stay.

But Jesus knows His mission and His mission is to preach.

“Preachers” are called to speak God's Word.

Jesus said: ***“I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”***

[*Gospel*]

The “GOOD NEWS” is the gospel.

The “GOOD NEWS” is that, by the preaching of His Word,

He has REBUKED the demons and the fevers

and the diseases and even death itself.

By the preaching of the Gospel, He exposes the false preachers for the ***“noisy gongs and clanging cymbals”*** that they are.

No greater REBUKE was ever heard in hell,

no greater Good News has ever been heard in heaven,

than that Word Jesus preached from the cross – “It is finished.”

The false word that deceived you has been cast out.

And the true Word that saves you has fallen into our ears.

And by the authority and power that the true Word has
to create faith in the heart, even a heart like ours,
we have received it, and we are AMAZED.

AMAZED that He has rebuked our sin and cast it out from us,
particularly those sins of speech that we are all guilty of.

Those words we used so carelessly and hurtfully towards others.

AMAZED that He has preached His Holy Spirit into us and made all things new
and set us free and brought us peace

and even changed the way we speak to one another.

[*Conclusion*]

He preaches to ***“EVERY ONE OF US,” “It is finished.”***

Already accomplished, but not yet fully realized.

“For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away...” “For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now, I know in part, then I shall know even as I am fully known.”

Until then, “we do not despise preaching and His Word,

but we hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”

And so we say, ‘Preach to us Lord! Please preach to us!’

“Preachers” are called to speak God’s Word.

Jesus is speaking through them. So listen. Amen.

REJOICE always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. AMEN! (1 Thess. 5:16–18)
