**Pastor Tim’s Message Notes from 11-27-2022
Target #3 – Sharing Jesus**

The word Advent means ‘coming.’ During Advent each year, churches around the world turn their attention to the fact that God *came* to us in the Person of Jesus. That is so amazing.

They celebrate that God our Father *sent* His one and only unique and eternal Son to earth to be our savior. What a loving thing to do.

And finally, during Advent Christians also look ahead to the return of Jesus to earth, remembering that He will be *coming again.* And we are to be about His business until then.

Friends, the coming of Christ is such an amazing event for so many reasons. And we will unpack some of the amazing truths in our new sermon series, which begins next week. We will be looking at the coming of Christ in each of the four gospels.

But for today, one of the fascinating things about Jesus’ coming was that He knew that many people would not receive Him. He knew that the majority of people would reject Him. In fact, Jesus Himself stated that following Him is the narrow way. It is not something everyone will do. …. But that didn’t stop Him from coming. He came anyway.

The fact that Jesus still came reveals a lot about the nature of God.

Jesus still came because in the eyes of God, every life is of immense worth. He was willing to pay the penalty for all human’s sins, knowing that only a minority would respond favorably.

But even if just one person said yes to Christ’s invitation, it would be worth it to God. And there is great rejoicing in heaven every time someone says ‘yes’ to Jesus. Amen.

Now for those that have said yes to Jesus, our Lord gives them a big responsibility and privilege. He entrusted them with sharing Him to the world.

They were not to try to do this in their own strength, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus would send to help them.

And as you read the Book of Acts, lives are transformed, churches are established, and the Kingdom of God begins to advance in place after place and in person after person.

But while the Book of Acts is only 28 chapters, the mission of the church has never stopped. We are still living in the Book of Acts today. We are still called to share Jesus with a whole whom Christ loves and whom He died for.

Paul the Apostles and Peter and others, they faithfully did their part and are now at home with Jesus in heaven. And they have passed the baton to us.

Have you ever watched a relay race where a baton is passed. I trust that Kyra, a great athlete among us, and more importantly a strong Christian, has participated in her share of relay races.

In a relay race, one runner builds off the next. We now have the baton and we are called to run the race that Christ has for us.

And part of that race we call living the Christian life, is sharing Jesus with others. Truly, Jesus Himself is the good news. His life, His message, it is good news to humanity. And good news is meant to be shared.

How many of you are following the World Cup? If you are not, it is a big soccer competition taking place right now in the country of Qatar.

So far in the tournament, there was at least one really big upset that happened.

Saudi Arabia upset Argentina. Argentina was considered to be a possible contender to win the whole tournament, and they are still in the tournament. This loss didn’t eliminate them.

But practically no one would have predicted that Saudi Arabia would win against them. In Saudi Arabia, this win was definitely received as good new. In fact, their leader declared a national holiday because of this win. He was eager to make sure that everyone knew this good news.

Brothers and sisters, as Christians, we have far better news than any sporting victory, we have the good news of victory of sin and death and spiritual darkness that Jesus has achieved for us. And this news is meant to be shared.

But before we dive into some practical ways that we can do this, let’s take a moment to review what we have been speaking about these last two weeks here at Chestnut Grove. Together, we have reflected on our God-given vision of being a light on a hill sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Again, this is a beautiful and biblically sound vision from the Lord.

But in order to actively take steps in living out this vision, we developed 3 core values or targets. As we aim and fire in these ways, we will make strides in being that light on a hill that Christ has called us to be.

The first core value to abide in Christ through daily prayer and worship and fellowship with God. This target is all about our vertical relationship with our Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The second core value is learning and growing in community. This will be lived out as we seek to do life together, not only through Sunday worship, but also through small group ministries. This horizontal target reminds us that practicing Christian community is essential for Christians to learn and grow in all the ways that Christ calls us to.

But as the vision statement reminds us, this light of Jesus is meant to be shared. And perhaps nowhere in the Bible is this more clearly taught than in these important words found near the beginning of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Please turn with me to Matthew 5:13-16 NIV:

13“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

This teaching of Jesus is one of the most humbling of all Scriptures. While in John’s Gospel, Jesus refers to Himself as “The light of the world,” here in Matthew’s Gospel Jesus is saying that those who follow Him carry His light into the world. It’s not meant to be kept to themselves.

In these verses, Jesus speaks about salt and light. Salt was primarily used as a preservative and light was essential to see in the darkness.

Jesus is telling His followers that the world is a place that is spiritually decaying and in darkness and you, my followers, are to be the answer. You are called to be sign posts that point to Me.

The simple truth is that in and of ourselves, we have nothing to offer a dying world. We ourselves were once dead in our sins also.

But Jesus makes all the difference! Amen!

Jesus has changed us. Jesus has brought His salt and His light to us and we are preserved, we are in the light. And now, we carry Jesus with us as we go.

You and I have the answer to what the world needs. His Name is Jesus.

Our privilege and our responsibility is to share Jesus with others.

This leads to the obvious question. How are we to share Jesus with others?

Friends, there is no one right answer. There can be as many different applications as there are people here. But I what I want to leave you with today is simply that we are to be salt and light and seek to share Jesus every day and in every way.

This doesn’t mean that you need to bring a soap box with us and start preaching in the grocery store or the street corner, necessarily, but it does mean that we are to be open about your faith. People should know that we are Christians.

We must let our light shine. We must be open about who we are. If Jesus is the most important Person in our life, we should be talking about Him to others.

Sadly, there is a political correctness that is very antichrist in nature. People are told to never talk politics and religion. In order words, the politically correct thing is to only speak about unimportant things.

But Jesus does not call us to be politically correct. He calls us to be salt and light. And of course, we are to be respectful and gentle and loving.

But there are many Christians, especially in places like America and Europe, that if they were put on trial for being a Christian, there would not be enough evidence to convict them. This should not be. All Christians are called to be guilty as charged.

So let us seek to share Jesus with others by letting our seeking to be salt and light to others.

Friends, Jesus does not explain every way that people can share him and be salt and light toward in this passage. But He does say that one way is by the good works that Christians do.

As we seek to share Jesus, our good works done in His Name are one way that we can do it.

Some simple examples would be giving a generous tip to a server at a restaurant and also telling them that Jesus loves them.

Another way is by choosing to help the weak and the needy in some way and being intentional in telling them that Jesus loves them.

We also share Jesus by inviting people to come to church or Bible study or small group.

We share Jesus by speaking about Jesus or giving people information about Jesus. Giving out Bibles. Giving away Gospel tracks or DVD’s of The Chosen.

There are many other ways that we can be intentional in sharing Jesus. But the big thing is to remember that Jesus loves everyone and every person is someone whom Jesus died for. They are a person of enormous value to God and should be of enormous value to us also.

Now will everyone respond positively? Most likely not. They didn’t to Jesus and we shouldn’t expect any different for us as we seek to share Jesus. The way is narrow that leads to life. Remember the parable of the sower? Only 1 out of 4 was good soil. But the sower sows anyway. And so should we.

So do not let rejection or the fear or rejection stop you from sharing Jesus with others. Jesus is the best thing that can happen to anyone.

We cannot control people’s responses. But we can control our choice to let the light of Jesus shine through us and we can choose to be salt in this world for Him.

As we seek to live this out each day, we must seek to grow in the love of Jesus. The Apostle Paul spoke about how the love of Christ compelled Him forward in ministry. Similarly, as the love of Jesus Christ is formed and grows within us, we will naturally want others to know Jesus as well.

Finally, when we are abiding in Jesus and when we are learning and growing in community, we will be naturally preparing ourselves to share Jesus with others. It all fits together.

And the LORD will be leading us forward in becoming that light on a hill sharing the love of Jesus Christ more every day. May it be so. Amen.

Resources:

[www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com)