

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map  
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Matthew 10:24-33  
July 5, 2020

### The Christ calls us to confess him fearlessly.

- <sup>32</sup> *Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven.* <sup>33</sup> *But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.*
  - ◆ Jesus is clear. **Confessing** him is **critical**. **Denying** him is **disastrous**.
- Polycarp, student of the Apostle John, understood this.
  - ◆ Rome demanded he worship the Roman Emperor as his god.
    - That would deny Jesus as his exclusive Lord and Savior.
  - ◆ He confessed: *Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King and Savior? You threaten me with a fire that burns for a season, and after a little while is quenched; but you are ignorant of the fire of everlasting punishment that is prepared for the wicked.*
  - ◆ Whoa! Way to go, Polycarp! **But wait**. Could I so fearlessly confess Christ?

### The Christ calls us to confess him fearlessly.

#### ❖ What does it mean to confess Christ?

- *Certainly, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* Rom. 10:9
- Is this a formula, a 1 time utterance? No way! It's a stand on & with Christ.
- *Confess, acknowledge* = profess publicly, observable stand
  - ◆ While such a conviction starts in the heart, it doesn't end there - hidden
  - ◆ How can it? Like Jeremiah, shut in - burns, wearies - cannot be silent
  - ◆ The amazing life-giving news needs to be proclaimed.
- We confess our God in Creed, hymns, Psalms, and liturgy.
  - ◆ We publicly proclaim Christ in Communion - *do this in remembrance...*
  - ◆ We **gather** to confess. An action that confesses in deed as well as words.
  - ◆ Words and actions that declare, *I reverence/respect Jesus above all!*
- Confessing Christ is not some vague notion, *merely* considering myself to be Christian on paper or decorating my neck or tombstone with a cross when it is traditional or fashionable.
  - ◆ It's wearing a cross, literally or figuratively, proclaiming, *On Christ Alone I stand - I have life - I live*. For without Jesus, I have nothing.

#### ❖ Why is confessing Christ critical?

- <sup>9</sup> *Certainly, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* <sup>10</sup> *For it is with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and it is with the mouth that a person confesses, resulting in salvation.* <sup>11</sup> *For Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."* Romans 10
- Sadly many have separated **faith** and **confession**. You can't! Faith confesses...
  - ◆ Faith trusts in Jesus as the only Savior - the Triune God as God alone.
    - Through the gift of faith God reconciled us to himself.
  - ◆ Faith respects the Living God as the only God.

- ◆ Faith lives the 1st Comm. - *You shall have no other gods besides me.*
  - Every sin is a failure to treat or respect God as God alone.
- ◆ Unbelief denies that the Triune God is God alone & Jesus is the Christ.
- ◆ Failure to confess = deny or disown God - disown Jesus as God's rescuer.
  - ◆ Those who respect being popular, fitting in, or the threat of persecution more than they respect Jesus, do not trust Jesus to keep them safe.
  - ◆ Confessing Jesus is the Christ is **critical**. **Without** it, you are **lost**.
  - ◆ After learning the Faith, we were asked this critical question:
    - *Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?*
    - We relied: *I do and I ask God to help me.*

Let's be honest. That's easy to say in the safety of your home, family, church, and in a nation that promises to protect your right to practice your faith. But if that changes - when that changes - *will I be ready to fearlessly confess Christ?*

❖ **How can I be ready to give a fearless confession?**

- *How does God prepare his people to make such a fearless confession?*
- He puts things in perspective with reality - the eternal facts.
  - ◆ <sup>28</sup> ***Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.***
  - ◆ Better realized now, than suffer eternal regret - no hope of rescue
    - **destroy** - *render irreparable, eternal shame, contempt, self-loathing*
  - ◆ We need this reality to crush our sinful nature - our old self.
- Did you catch the comfort in Jesus' stunning opening statement?
  - ◆ <sup>25</sup> ***It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If the master of the house was called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!***
    - Jesus claims us in his household - under the master's care.
    - That's why he goes on to point out the Father's attentive care
      - God cares about little things: little birds & even the hairs of our head
      - He cares infinitely more for his redeemed children of his household.
- God prepares us to make a fearless confession in all circumstances by:
  - ◆ Having us dive deep into all that is ours as his children.
  - ◆ The more we see how deep, rich, full, & profound our life in Christ is now and forever, the more unthinkable it is to trade it for anything!
  - ◆ The more we see what Christ has **saved us from**, the more we want to confess it, so our persecutors and all watching come to know Jesus.
  - ◆ Tertullian (195 AD) *We multiply when you reap us. The blood of Christians is seed.* - Christians give witness to their peace and hope in the face of death.
  - ◆ Jesus' great understatement: <sup>25</sup> ***It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master.***
    - *Enough* - sufficient, the source of profound contentment.
    - *...speak with gentleness and respect, while maintaining a clear conscience, so that those who attack your good way of life in Christ may be put to shame because they slandered you as evildoers.* 1 Peter :16

**The Christ calls us to confess him fearlessly.**

Understanding the **What, Why, and How**, you'll treat confessing Christ as **critical**.