

Sunday April 26, 2020

Christ is Risen

Acts 3:1-10

This morning we listen to Peter healing a lame beggar with the name of Jesus. Peter gives him something far greater than the money he was expecting. Peter gives him his health and mobility. This is something more valuable than money. Even in our age health is wealth that is far greater than money. Peter did all of this by invoking the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The name of Jesus or Joshua was not name given to Our Lord by His parents Mary and Joseph. This name Jesus was selected by God. Mathew tells us, "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." In Luke, it is the angel Gabriel who tells Mary that His name will be Jesus. Whether it was Joseph's dream or the mouth of Gabriel, God lets Mary and Joseph know what His name is to be.

The name Jesus or Joshua means that Jehovah is salvation. This name reveals God's purpose to humanity. When God sends Jesus, He sends Him as a messenger to us. To remind us that God has not forgotten nor forsaken us. The name Jesus also tells us what God's intention for humanity will be. That God's intention is the redemption and salvation of humanity through His Son Jesus. This is what God wanted and it was completed through Jesus 's ministry on Earth.

The name of Jesus is honored and revered in Heaven, Earth and hell. In Heaven the person and name of Jesus is honored like nowhere else. Rev 7:9-11, "Of all the tribes, people, and tongues standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes with palm branches in their hands and crying out with a loud voice saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb. All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipping God saying, Amen, Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to Our God forever and ever." When the name of Jesus is heard in Heaven it is a catalyst for rejoicing and praising God. The name of Jesus is a constant source of praise in Heaven.

Here on Earth many use the name of Jesus lightly and without thought. Yet St. Paul informs us and the Phillipians 2:9-11, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of things in Heaven and things on Earth and things under the Earth. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. To the Glory of God the Father." Jesus's name gives us our identity.

As a Christian we are identified with Jesus and His Father who sent Him. Since we believe in Jesus as His Son we are expected to live as He did. Acts 11:26” And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch”.

In the early church it was a common practice to be baptized in the name of Jesus. In Acts 2:38, “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you , in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The name of Jesus is respected even in hell among the devils and demons. When Our Lord was ministering amongst u the demons has a deep respect and reverence for him. Yet they still continued to work against Him and hamper His ministry. Luke 4:41, “And demons came out of many, crying out and saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of God. And He rebuked them and did not allow them to speak, for they knew He was the Christ.” James 2:19, “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons, believe and tremble.”

Jesus was the only person to ever claim equality with God. He claimed to be the possessor of all the powers of Earth. Jesus encouraged us to call upon His name in our times of need and prayer. John 6:23, “What so ever you shall ask the Father in my name, He will give to you.” So when we call upon Jesus’s name in prayer we should do it with great faith and understanding of the power that lies in His name. There is a great responsibility placed upon those who call upon His name. We should be aware of the power and gravity of our prayer. Our role is to ask responsibly in the name of Jesus when we pray. It is God’s role to answer.

The names Jesus and Joshua have many depths of complexity. This is a name that is respected and revered in Heaven, Earth and hell. This name is respected by the Heavenly hosts. This was the name selected by God for His Messiah. This name heals and brings salvation to humanity. “For whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”, Romans 10-13. This is the name that saves you and I and gives us victory. God Bless and stay safe, Pastor D