

“HE OPENED THE BOOK”

LUKE 4:17

INTRODUCTION

THERE ARE SERMONS THAT ENCOURAGE, SERMONS THAT DRIVE, SERMONS THAT CELEBRATE AND THEN THERE ARE PASTORAL SERMONS WHICH DEAL WITH THE HEART OF A MATTER THAT THE LORD HAS SHOWN TO THE SHEPHERD, WHICH MUST BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SHEEP.

THIS IS GOING TO BE A PASTORAL SERMON.

- 1. OUR CHURCH HAS NO PROBLEM WITH PRAISE.**
- 2. OUR CHURCH HAS NO PROBLEM WITH GIVING.**
- 3. OUR CHURCH HAS NO PROBLEM WITH LOVING.**
- 4. OUR CHURCH HAS NO PROBLEM WITH CELEBRATING.**
- 5. OUR CHURCH HAS NO PROBLEM FOLLOWING THE PASTOR.**
- 6. OUR CHURCH HAS NO PROBLEM WITH HELPING PEOPLE.**

HOWEVER, OUR CHURCH HAS A PROBLEM. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE COME IN MASS TO MORNING WORSHIP AND FILL THE PEWS EVERY SUNDAY, BUT OUR PROBLEM IS THAT WE COME TO SHOUT BUT WE DON'T COME IN GREAT NUMBERS TO STUDY THE WORD!

I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE HERE AT 11:00 A.M. BUT MORNING WORSHIP IS A ONE-WAY DIALOGUE.

THE PASTOR OR THE PREACHER IS GOING TO PREACH FROM THE WORD OF GOD.

YOU'LL HEAR THE WORD OF GOD.

YOU'LL BE INSPIRED BY THE WORD OF GOD. BUT YOUR INSPIRATION OUGHT TO STEER YOU TOWARD SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY IN A CORPORATE SENSE.

LET'S LOOK AT IT :

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY SHOULD BE THE LARGEST GATHERING IN THIS CHURCH!

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY SHOULD NOT BE DISREGARDED AS FOR "OTHER FOLK AND NOT FOR ME."

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY DOES NOT NEGATE YOUR WORSHIP, BUT IT WILL ENHANCE YOUR WORSHIP.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE WORD OF GOD WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

- 1. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SCHOLAR,**
- 2. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK GREEK AND HEBREW.**
- 3. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAD A DISCUSSION.**
- 4. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE A SPEECH DURING CLASS.**

HOWEVER, ALL OF US NEED TO COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY.

SOME OF YOU, WHEN YOU FIRST GOT HERE, RAN TO CLASS AND NOW IT'S BEEN WEEKS OR MONTHS SINCE YOU WALKED INTO A CLASSROOM.

SOME OF YOU SAID, I'LL WAIT UNTIL THE NEW PASTOR GETS HERE AND THEN I'LL COME TO BIBLE STUDY, WELL, THE NEW PASTOR HAS BEEN HERE 28 YEARS, AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T MADE YOUR WAY TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY.

I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH IS ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING AN AWESOME, AWESOME CHURCH.

WE ARE ON THE PRECIPICE OF ENTERING INTO A CATEGORY OF BEING A CONGREGATION THAT IS FOCUSED COMPLETELY ON JESUS CHRIST.

HOWEVER, IT WON'T HAPPEN UNTIL EVERYBODY DECIDES TO COME TO STUDY THE WORD CORPORATELY. THAT MEANS PREACHERS, DEACONS, TRUSTEES, USHERS, CHOIR MEMBERS, MISSIONARIES, MEN'S MINISTRY, CHILDREN, YOUTH, ADULTS, SENIORS, BLACK, WHITE, RICH FOLK, POOR FOLK, PEOPLE OVER 6' TALL, PEOPLE UNDER 6' TALL, LIGHT SKINNED, DARK SKINNED, STUDENTS, COLLEGE STUDENTS, GRADUATES, URBAN AND SUBURBAN, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, WE NEED TO STUDY THE WORD OF GOD CORPORATELY.

I DON'T WANT TO BE KNOWN AS "THE SINGING CHURCH" OR "THE SHOUTING CHURCH" OR "THE MESSY CHURCH" OR "THE GOSSIPING CHURCH" – I WANT US TO BE KNOWN AS "THE STUDYING CHURCH."

TRANSFER TO THE TEXT

OUR TEXT IS REFLECTIVE OF THIS MANDATE FOR OUR CHURCH.

JESUS OUR CHRIST IS IN THE SYNAGOGUE.

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE LORD HAS BEEN TO THE SYNAGOGUE.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, JESUS SHOULD NOT BE A STRANGER TO THE PLACE OF WORSHIP.

CAN I TELL SOMEBODY HERE THAT THE LORD IS WELCOME ANYTIME AT ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH?

**HE WAS HERE BEFORE WE GOT HERE THIS MORNING.
AND HE IS HERE RIGHT NOW.**

AND HE'LL BE HERE WHEN THE LAST PERSON LOCKS UP THE BUILDING.

- **HE'S WELCOME IN THE PULPIT.**
- **HE'S WELCOME TO SIT WITH THE USHERS.**
- **HE'S WELCOME IN THE CHOIR STAND.**
- **HE'S WELCOME IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.**
- **HE'S WELCOME TO SIT WITH THE DEACONS.**

THE LORD HAS A HISTORY OF GOING TO WORSHIP. HOWEVER ON THIS OCCASION, THEY ALLOW HIM TO DO WHAT IS NORMALLY DONE BY THE CHIEF RABBI OF THE HOUSE.

NORMALLY, AN ATTENDANT WOULD OPEN WHAT IS CALLED "THE BOOK."

HOWEVER, IN GREEK, IT'S NOT JUST A BOOK BUT IT'S LITERALLY A SCROLL.

**WITH THE SACRED WRITING BEING ANTIQUITY,
THEY WERE WRITTEN ON SKINS OF PARCHMENT,
AND THEN ROLLED ONTO TWO ROLLERS.**

**THEY BEGAN ON EACH END, SO THAT IN READING
FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, THEY ROLLED WITH THE
LEFT HAND WHILE THEY ROLLED ON WITH THE
RIGHT.**

**JESUS WAS ON A DIVINE TEACHING ASSIGNMENT,
TO TEACH IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES, THEIR PLACES
OF PUBLIC WORSHIP, WHERE THEY MET TO READ,
EXPOUND, AND APPLY THE WORD, TO PRAY AND
PRAISE!**

**HOWEVER, THIS TIME WHEN THE BOOK WAS
HANDLED TO JESUS – HE OPENED THE BOOK IN
CORPORATE WORSHIP!**

**I NEED TO TELL SOMEBODY, IT'S OKAY TO OPEN
THE BIBLE AT HOME – BUT YOU NEED TO OPEN THE
BOOK AT CHURCH, AMONG THE SAINTS!**

- 1. JESUS WAS NOT AT THE HOUSE – HE WAS AT
THE
CHURCH!**
- 2. JESUS WAS NOT ON THE BEACH – HE WAS AT
THE
CHURCH!**
- 3. JESUS WAS NOT AT THE JERUSALEM DERBY –
HE WAS AT THE CHURCH!**
- 4. JESUS WAS NOT AT THE MALL – HE WAS AT
THE CHURCH!**
- 5. THEY SAW HIM AT THE CHURCH,**
- 6. THEY HEARD HIM READ THE WORD AT
CHURCH,**

7. **THEY WATCHED HIM HANDLE THE WORD AT THE CHURCH.**

HE OPENED THE BOOK AND WHEN HE OPENED THE BOOK, HE FOUND A PASSAGE FROM ISAIAH.

NOW, I DON'T HAVE ANY DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS SUSPICION, NOR DO I HAVE THE THEOLOGICAL AGREEMENT TO CONFIRM MY CONVICTION.

1. **ALL I KNOW IS THAT WHEREVER YOU OPEN UP THIS BOOK, YOU WILL FIND WHAT YOU NEED!**
2. **IF YOU OPEN UP GENESIS – YOU WILL BE BLESSED!**
3. **IF YOU OPEN UP THE BOOKS OF THE LAW – YOU WILL BE HELPED!**
4. **IF YOU OPEN UP THE BOOKS OF POETRY – YOU WILL BE STRENGTHENED!**
5. **IF YOU OPEN UP THE BOOK OF HISTORY – YOU WILL BE ENCOURAGED!**
6. **IF YOU OPEN UP THE GOSPELS – YOU WILL BE CONVICTED!**
7. **IF YOU OPEN UP THE LETTERS – YOU WILL BE INSPIRED!**
8. **IF YOU OPEN UP REVELATIONS – YOU WILL BE READY TO WORSHIP!**

I'M GLAD THAT THE LORD DIDN'T OPEN UP THE STAR LEDGER, THE NEW YORK TIMES, NEWSWEEK, TIME OR OPRAH MAGAZINE, BECAUSE THE WORD OF GOD IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN ADDRESS MY NEEDS.

IT'S TRUE FROM COVER TO COVER, CHAPTER TO CHAPTER, PAGE TO PAGE, WORD TO WORD!

JESUS OPENS THE BOOK AND READS TO THE CONGREGATION, "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM DELIVERANCE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED."

ABYSSINIAN, WE NEED TO KNOW THAT WHATEVER WE DO, IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF OUR BANK ACCOUNTS, IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF OUR PERSONAL PEDIGREES, BUT IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THE SPIRIT OF LORD.

THIS USAGE OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, PNEUMA, PAINTS THE PICTURE OF A LEAF, AFTER IT HAS FALLEN FROM A TREE.

AFTER THAT DISCONNECT, IT IS AT THE WILL AND DIRECTION OF THE WIND.

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS, THE LEAF HAS TO FOLLOW.

WHERE THE WIND BLOWS, THE LEAF HAS NO CHOICE.

1. **IT WAS HIS SPIRIT THAT LED JESUS INTO THE WILDERNESS.**
2. **IT WAS HIS SPIRIT THAT KEPT JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS.**
3. **IT WAS HIS SPIRIT THAT LED JESUS INTO THE SYNAGOGUE.**

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M GLAD – IT WASN'T MY SENSE OF HISTORY THAT BROUGHT ME TO CHURCH TODAY – IT WAS THE SPIRIT!

IT WASN'T MY INTELLIGENCE THAT MADE ME WALK THE AISLE AND JOIN CHURCH – IT WAS THE SPIRIT!

IT ISN'T MY SOCIAL HISTORY THAT TAKES ME TO BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL– IT WAS THE SPIRIT!

IF THE SPIRIT CAN MAKE YOU SHOUT, THE SPIRIT CAN LEAD YOU TO BIBLE STUDY!

IF THE SPIRIT CAN MAKE YOU SPEAK IN TONGUES, THE SPIRIT CAN LEAD YOU TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

IF THE SPIRIT CAN MAKE YOU JUMP FOR JOY, THE SPIRIT CAN HELP YOU JUMP INTO A CLASS!

ALL THE GIFTS AND GRACES OF THE SPIRIT WERE UPON HIM AND ON HIM WITHOUT MEASURE.

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT JESUS WHEN HE HANDLES THE WORD AND THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD, EXPRESSED AND TAUGHT IN A CORPORATE SETTING.

CONCLUSION

I'M CLOSING HERE BUT JESUS PREACHED THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.

SOMEBODY NEEDS TO KNOW THAT RIGHT NOW, THE LORD IS GIVING TWO INVITATIONS.

- 1. FIRST, HE INVITES THOSE WHO ALREADY KNOW HIM AS SAVIOR TO LEARN**

MORE ABOUT HIM SO THAT HE WILL BE YOUR LORD!

2. SECONDLY, HE INVITES THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW HIM TO COME UNTO HIM!

THOSE OF US WHO KNOW HIM, KNOW THAT HE CAN SAVE YOU, HE CAN DELIVER YOU AND HE WILL MAKE AWAY.

THE REASON WE KNOW IT, IT'S BECAUSE IT'S IN THE WORD OF GOD!

1. I LEARNED THAT HE WAS BORN IN A MANGER. [LUKE 2:26-28]

2. I LEARNED THAT HE WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN. [LUKE 2:26-28]

3. I LEARNED THAT HE TOLD HIS MOTHER I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS. [LUKE 2:49]

4. I LEARNED THAT HE DISAPPEARED FROM 12 YEARS TO 30 YEARS OF AGE. [LUKE 2:51-52]

5. I LEARNED THAT HE WAS BAPTIZED IN THE JORDAN RIVER. LUKE 3:21]

6. I LEARNED THAT HE CALLED HIS DISCIPLES. [MATT. 4:]

7. I LEARNED THAT HE TURNED WATER INTO WINE. [JOHN 2:1-11]

8. I LEARNED THAT HE HEALED THE SICK AND RAISED THE DEAD. [ALL THE GOSPELS]

9. I LEARNED THAT HE INSTITUTED THE LORD'S SUPPER. [MARK 14, MATT. 26]

10. I LEARNED THAT HE WAS ARRESTED IN THE GARDEN. [MATT 26:57]

11. I LEARNED THAT HE WAS BEATEN ALL NIGHT LONG. [MATT. 27:27-31]

12. I LEARNED THAT HE DIED ON A RUGGED CROSS. [MATT. 27, MARK 15:24, LUKE 25:33, JOHN 19:18]

13. I LEARNED THAT HE GOT UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND! [MATT 28, MARK 16:1, LUKE 24:1, JOHN 20:1]

ULTRA CONCLUSION

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT GOD, THE MORE I WANT TO PRAISE HIM!

1. THAT'S WHY I TAKE CLASSES, SO I CAN PRAISE HIM!
2. THAT'S WHY I COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, SO I CAN PRAISE HIM!
3. THAT'S WHY I COME TO BIBLE STUDY, SO I CAN PRAISE HIM!