

Sermon Oct 18 "He's not like superman..." 10/9/09 2:53 PM

Mission Statement "to build committed followers of JESUS - to do His work in our city, country and world."

Welcome again to our first family service..

So we are going through our mission statement as a church, a mission statement is a short written statement that explains what we want to do as a church. For us it should really influence our actions, worship preaching and teaching. (read mission statement) Mission Statement "to build committed followers of JESUS - to do His work in our city, country and world."

- Two weeks ago Ryan talked about building...the idea that we are secondary builders building Gods House, Ryan laid out some tools that we have to help us as we participate in building God's Church and community...prayer, worship, learning and service.
- Last week James talked about being committed followers, I liked how James put it. Committed followers are the seeds that take root and produce food, committed followers understand that it is a team game and we need to work together by encouraging one another and holding them up so that we all persevere, because those who persevere are the committed ones.

-This week I have the privilege of sharing about Jesus and how he fits into our mission....because we are to build committed followers of JESUS...so the obvious question then would be..."Who is Jesus?" when I was young this is how I viewed Jesus - video of images of super heroes put to the song save me my Remy zero (aprox 1min)

-when I was young Jesus to me was a Superhero...he had super powers and was always around to protect me and watch out for me, he was suppose to swoop in a save me at my beckon call. I'm not sure where this came from....most likely because I liked comics and action figures and such. ("but I have grown out of that....man, its warm in here...give me a sec" take of jacket or shirt to revel superman shirt "what it was laundry day or well I have not quite grown out of it")

-(defining moment)(blizzard of 96 (age 13)) driving home from aunt and uncle place and I thought I was going to die, prayed for Jesus to save me instantly! I was expecting Jesus to come show up like superman and pick up or mini van and gently place us down at our destination. But we keep in sliding and skidding all over the place etc...) this made me ask where was Jesus, where was my superhero who was always looking out for me, why didn't he swoop down on a web like spiderman and save me and my family My original idea of Jesus was shaken, if Jesus was not going to swoop in on a web and save me when I needed him to, what was he going to do. if this is not who Jesus was then my question changed to Who is Jesus....He clearly wasn't this super hero I thought he was.

- So I set out to find out who Jesus was, I asked people around me, at school, my friends etc and I found out extremely quickly that everyone has there own idea of who Jesus is.
 - This is still very true today. I spent a bit of time this week looking on the internet and such trying to find out what the world thinks of Jesus. Jesus from POP culture...(what the world things about Jesus)
 - Jesus is very popular in our culture, he shows up in Songs and TV shows regularly, there is clothing about Jesus "Jesus is my homeboy" and "Jesus save, referring to saving a goal in hockey" –Madonna, ben Affleck, brad pitt, Pamela Anderson, Ashton Cutcher. they even have action figures of Jesus. You may have seen Jesus is movies aswell....more than 100 movies have been done of his life...some actuate, some not so much – Passion of the Christ and the Da Vinci code, to the weirdest. "Jesus Christ: Vampire Hunter" which is a Canadian kung fu horror comedy.
 - Then I started getting into what other religions and people say about Jesus.
 - Liberal Christians – Say he was merely a good man, Not God
 - Jehovah's Witnesses say that Jesus was merely an archangel and a created being that became a man.
 - Mormonism teaches that Jesus was not God but only a man who became one of many gods:

- Unitarian Universalism teaches that Jesus was not God but rather a great man of teaching, love, justice and healing
 - Buddhism teaches that Jesus was not God but rather an enlightened man like the Buddha.
- I looked though a few more and then something clicked and I realized that I was being completely unfair to Jesus....Im looking everywhere and listening to everyone else idea of Jesus with out giving Jesus a chance to speak for Himself.
 - Personally I would like the chance to explain who I am if...if someone wanted to know about me I would hope they would come to me to find out

So I went to the Bible where Jesus is actually very clear about who he is. These are some of things I found.

Jesus Christ, his name is very fitting for his Ministry "JESUS" comes from the old testament name Joshua which mean "Yahweh God saves" and Christ means anointed of God... so the anointed one of God come to save his people. Now when we are speaking of Jesus Christ we are talking about a guy who was born roughly 2000 years ago to a teenage girl named Mary, whos adoptive father, Joseph was a carpenter. And Jesus' life, up until age 30 was relatively normal, he played with his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Jude who later wrote books of the Bible, we went to school and did the things that normal kids did. When he got older we assume that he worked with his earthly father as a carpenter. He was a normal guy with a lunchbox and tool belt who was off every morning to work his job. At the age of 30 he began a public ministry that included teaching, preaching, performing miracles and such. He ultimately was put to death because of that ministry because he continually said I am God's son. And that is what I mainly want to focus on today ...very quick summary of Jesus...

Now there are so many point and great things about Jesus' life that I could stand up for hours and hours and hours and share them all with you....but don't worry I only want to highlight two very important points that helps us to be committed followers of Him.

- Point one "Jesus is Gods Son" "TEXT" **Matthew 16:13-16**
"13When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
 - Let me explain this "son of Man" because this "son of man" is actually an important part of this text. This is a title that means God coming into human history as a man. This title comes from the book of Daniel, chapter 7 13&14 "13 *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."* Its important to note that this son of Man was given Authority, glory, and sovereign power...these are attributes of God...it was literally God becoming man. for hunerds of years people have been waiting for this Son of man, the one who Daniel prophesied would come...now Jesus Christ is born and continually calls himself the Son of Man. Jesus lifts this name out of Daniel 7 and rightly so puts it upon himself...I'm pretty sure this was His favorite name for himself as he uses it over 80 times. And in so doing this Jesus is saying that I have all authority, glory and sovereign power.
- **14They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."**
15"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
16Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- "Jesus, Gods Son" to bring this back to our mission statement, when we are building committed followers of Jesus we are in fact building committed followers of God.
 - I think this is my favorite point because it does in fact confirm my childhood thought of Jesus being a super hero, I mean calling himself the Son of Man and claiming the same authority as God is just super and amazing! and listen to

some of the things Jesus did in his life, fed 5000 people with very little food, raised people from the dead, walked on water, turned water into wine, healing a lot of people (leper)(blindness, muteness and the list goes on) and the most amazing thing is that after being dead for three days Jesus raises from the dead!....if that does not scream super hero I don't know what does. Now where I had gotten wrong was the concept and idea of Jesus as a rescuer. I was wanting Jesus to rescue me and take all my problems, worries, frustrations away. Very much like superman who comes and lifts you away and put you down out of harms way. BUT JESUS IS NOT LIKE SUPERMAN Jesus does not float above the city listening to who needs the most help. Jesus promise is to be with all of us in the mist of our problems. Not just save us for an instant and fly off... And looking back Jesus was with my family during the snow storm, he was helping and guiding my dad as he drove to keep us safe. It was completely different than what I was expecting but Jesus was still there, and I'm here today standing in front of you so even though I was positive I was a goner, I am still here today.

This now brings me to my second point.

- Point two, Jesus, The Example.
 - "Jesus The Example (teacher)"
 - Lets recap really quickly, so we know that Jesus is Gods son, we know that we are building committed followers of God's Son, Jesus.
 - well what does that look like...Jesus also leave us with the best example...his own life, his life should be an example of how we live our lives. This is another point where I could stand up here for hours and hours and tell you about all the different examples, stories and lessons that Jesus left us with, but I am just going to choose one. There is something that Jesus held of very high importance...it's found a few times in the bible but will share it with you from Matthew, its known as the greatest commandment, someone stands up and asks Jesus this MT 22:36-39 "*Teacher, which is the greatest*

commandment in the Law?"³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.

- it comes across quite easy, we are to love God wholly and love each other by treating them the way we would want to be treated...now Sarah(wife), Rupert(son) have lived here for nearly two months and I can safely say it is super easy to love your neighbour as yourself within this church, you all are awesome!
- However we we look at the text and also look at who Jesus considers to qualify as our neighbour it makes it harder, Jesus considers everyone we come in contact with to be our neighbor!
- We have to love everyone!!!! Even that smelly kid at school who does not fit in just right, or someone wrongs us, (story about lady cutting in line)
 - when you really think about Jesus was on to something here, this really is the greatest commandment, just imagine what, our city, our country and our world would look like if everyone loved their neighbour as themselves

To summarize, we are building committed followers of Jesus, who is the kind of superhero that helps us through our problems and never leaves us, were building committed followers of Jesus to do his work in our city, country and world, and that starts by loving our neighbour, who is everyone! As we would love ourselves.

Now I would like to invite the Dave up to lead us in worship on last time this morning.

benediction, (were going into the week blessing each other). I want to bless you all as you leave this morning and encourage you to show love to everyone, loving like that is contagious.