

Never Gonna Stop...Preachin

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. We shut down *offices* completely (we'll take it 1 week at a time). 4 from our Israel Team have tested *positive* for COVID-19. Stats: 4 pos. 2 neg. 2 ruled out, just a bad cough. 8 more tested & waiting results.

II. Intro:

- A. Slide2a Isaac newton was a college student during *the great plague of London*, in 1665. They wouldn't find out for 200 years what caused it. **But** the schools had sense enough to send their students home. **Cambridge** sent *Isaac Newton* home. He stayed home the next year and flourished. It became known as his "*annus mirabiles*", *year of wonders*. Working on his own math problems, what he wrote in his papers became what we know as **calculus**. He obtained a **prism** & wrote papers on **optics**. He looked out his bedroom window & contemplated the famous **apple tree**, where he came up with the **laws of gravity** & his **3 laws of motion**.¹

1. Slide2b What can **you** do during this **pandemic**? Big **interruptions** can become big **introductions**...to new discoveries. Choose to make a *problem* a **possibility**. Choose to use *obstacles* as **opportunities**. **Invest** your time, don't *waste* it.
2. **See setbacks as opportunities!** Find the *silver lining*. Look around for ways to **love**. Look around for ways to **serve** others. We are all getting a digital education. **Love** your family. **Love** your neighbors. **Love** through social media. **Love** those in your sphere of an influence.

- B. **Prayer:** *Often we don't change the world, because we struggle changing ourselves.*

"What a powerful Name it is. What a powerful Name it is. The Name of *Jesus Christ* my King"

- C. Slide3 Title: *Never Gonna Stop...Preachin* (Singing, Jesus Culture)

III. Slide4a EXPECT CRITICISM FOR DOING GOOD (1-4)

- A. That's why we are told, *let us not grow weary of doing good*. (why does he say this, *cuz we will*)
- B. Slide4b This is the first Collision of **the church** and **the world**.

¹ Dr. Tim Elmore, (blog) *A Pandemic is a Terrible Thing to Waste*.

1. This is only the **beginning** of the **official persecutions** of Christians.
2. **Slide4c** There were actually **10 waves of persecution** in the 1st 3 centuries.
 - a) **There were:** Jewish fears (here). Roman Political suspicions (spoke of a kingdom). **Social Reasons** (ceremonies they couldn't participate in). **Economic reasons** (Christians were made scapegoats for great calamities). **Religious reasons** (only 1 way).
3. And the Christian church has **suffered persecution ever since**.

C. **Embrace adversity** and **expect criticism** for *doing good*.

D.(1) Peter's sermon on the temple mount was **suddenly interrupted**.

1. It's getting close to nightfall now (3:1 said 3pm).

E.(1b) It was an **official group**: **priests; the temple guard & the Sadducees**.

1. The Sadducees had vested interest here (didn't believe in the Res)

F. (2) **Greatly disturbed that they taught the people** – Christianity always brings teaching **directly** to the people.

G.(3) Arrested & placed in jail overnight.

1. **Slide4d** **What exactly was the cause of arrest?** – **Resurrection** teaching (2).

2. **It was a collision between the new faith & the old.**

H.(4) Isn't it great that even though Peter & John are being dragged off to jail, we still have many getting saved.

1. **Here is the progress report** on the spread of the gospel.

2. **Slide4e** **Persecution** always makes for growth.

IV. **Slide5a** **WHAT POWER? WHAT NAME? (5-12)**

A.(5-7) Ordered to appear before the **Sanhedrin**. Here was *their Supreme Court*. 71 learned, bearded, cold-eyed, scowling rabbis, calling in 2 hillbilly fishermen.²

1. Mostly, 2 main religious groups: *Phar/Sad* (sounds like a virus, I just came down w/*pharisees*).

2. Peter was probably in as much trouble for his **message** in the temple, **as his healing** the lame man.

B.(7) **What power? What name?** [This is *admission* of the existence of His **power & name**]

C.(8) Peter answers them **in the power of the H.S.**

1. This is a **fresh filling** of the Holy Spirit.

² Peter Wagner; pg.106.

2. Slide5b Peter probably remembered his Masters promise, *Now when they bring you to the synagogues & magistrates & authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say, But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.* Lk.12:11-13

D.(9) So do you disapprove of *good deeds*?

1. Because *Trials are convened for crimes not acts of mercy & love.*

E.(10) The *power & name?* ... *Jesus Christ of Nazareth.*

1. Peter also accused the Sanhedrin of responsibility for **rejecting & killing** Christ.

2. He also *proclaimed God's power in raising* Jesus from the dead.

F. Slide6a (12) I have a riddle: *what is Needed by all. Offered to many. Supplied by One?*³

1. Slide6b **Salvation** is... The **Great Necessity** – we **must** be saved.⁴

a) Why must we be saved? Because we are *lost, helpless & hopeless.*

(1) We are **lost** (sheep). We are **helpless** (coin). We are **hopeless** (prodigal son) 3 stories found in Lukes 1st Volume, Lk.15.

2. Slide6c The **Great Possibility** – **salvation.**

a) What are its characteristics? **Pardon** for **past** (prodigal son). **Power** for **present** (coin). **Peace** for **future** (sheep).

3. Slide6d The **Great Provision** – **name.**

a) **Who** has supplied salvation & how? Christ's **death** for *pardon*. Christ's **life** for *power*. Christ's **presence** for *peace*.

4. Slide6e The **Great Opportunity** – **under heaven.**

a) **Who** may receive this salvation?

b) It's **offered** to all. It's **available** for all peoples. It's **sufficient** for all.

5. Slide6f The **Great Limitation** – **none other.**

a) How is that indicated? There is only one **source of information** (Bible).

Only one **plea** (the person of Christ). Only one **way** (new birth through grace).

Only one **means** (faith in Christ).

b) He is *The Alone Savior.*

³ Griffith Thomas; pg.86

⁴ Griffith Thomas; pg.89,90

V. Slide7a **THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS (13-18)**

A.(13) **Uneducated** – If taken literally *w/o letters*, **not** knowing the ABC's.

1. Here it denotes the *lack of rabbinic teaching*.⁵
2. But what a **private education** they had had...w/Jesus?

B. Slide7b **Untrained** – [*idiotes*] An amateur, a layman, not an expert, unskilled, commoner⁶

1. An unlearned, illiterate man, **as opposed to** the **learned & educated**.
2. Literally, **people of the land**, ordinary folks, **not systematically educated in the Bible and the traditions of either the Pharisees or the Sadducees**.

a) **That's me**: no formal training. Ford Ranger training (cassettes).

C. **They had been with Jesus** – evidently an **impression** had been made upon them. (*stamp*)

1. The best understanding of **Christ's living biography** should be written out in the **words & actions** of His people.
2. **Illust**: On one Sunday morn after service a friend gave me a hug & was wearing **great cologne**. Next person I hugged said, *you smell great!* I said, *Thanks, but that's not my cologne, I've been hugged by so-n-so.*

D. **Others realized that they had been with Jesus** –

E.(14) The miracle had already been done.

1. The man **wasn't** in prison with them, **but** here he is **standing right by their side** during their **trial**.

F. (16-18) Although they were unable to deny the **apostolic miracle**, they felt compelled to curtail the **apostolic preaching**.⁷

VI. Slide8a **WE'RE NEVER GONNA STOP SINGING/PREACHIN (19-22)** *Jesus Culture*

A.(19) **We must obey God, not men** - these vss constitute a solid basis for *civil disobedience*.

B.(20) **We cannot but speak** – can't help speaking about the things we've seen/heard.

1. They were so *filled* with **their message & with the love of Christ** that they could not stop telling people about **Him**.

C. Slide8b **John Bunyan** (1628-1688) after he had been in prison many years simply for *preaching the gospel*, was promised to be **set free** if he'd only promise *not to preach again*.

1. He could have said, *The gospel has not been helpful. It has only brought me & my family harm. I've left my wife to fend on her own, & what kind of witness is*

⁵ F.B.Meyer.

⁶ Bruce

⁷ Shepherd's Notes; pg.16

this for my blind daughter? I better get out of this place so I can get back to my trade of tinkering. (mending pots & pans)

2. *Slide8c Instead he said, If you let me out of prison today, I will preach again tomorrow, by the grace of God. He also bravely told them, If I lie in jail till the moss grows on my eyelids, I will never conceal the truth which God has taught me.*

D.Salvation...Needed by all. Offered to many. Supplied by One.