



- Introduction – Before movie companies were careful about Swahili translations—assuming no one in the U.S. would understand—a director needed an African messenger who was to gasp out a sentence to the big chief, collapsing as he delivered his message, since he had run for days with his vital news. A local Englishman who spoke Swahili was asked to write an urgent-sounding sentence in the language. He did, tongue in cheek. An American actor played the part beautifully. All went well until the movie was shown in Nairobi (where everyone spoke Swahili, of course). The drama of the moment was reduced to high comedy. **1.) Our message is widely despised (v. 5-6).**
- (As we mentioned last week), totally divergent groups all converge to oppose the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - In this passage, we see the secular/religious liberals (Sadducees) and the religious fundamentalists (the scribes/teachers of the Law) along with the career politicians (the high-priest and his family) all agreeing to disagree with the Good News of Jesus Christ.
 - The same is true today: The whole world, which cannot agree on much, agrees to despise the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Last Sunday Night:
 - Human pride hates the idea of salvation by grace.
 - Human uncertainty hates the unmitigated conviction of our creed (v. 13).
- Remember, we proclaim the Gospel not because it is popular, but because it is powerful... not because it is trendy but because it is true.

2.) Our message is intentionally ignored (v. 7-9, cf. 15-17).

- v. 7 – The leaders were missing the main miracle. They were focused on the man who had been healed; the apostles were pointing to the Healer. They saw the restored man but missed the resurrected Lord.
- v. 8-9 – “...if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man...”
 - In essence, “How did you do that? The council wanted to talk about the miracle; the apostles wanted to talk about Jesus.

- Clearly, Jesus was not the answer they wanted.
- v. 15-17 – The council deliberately ignored the apostle’s plea to call on Christ.
 - Instead of saying, “Wow, in light of this great miracle, maybe we ought to listen to what these men have to say,” they say, “All I care about is that these men immediately stop telling people about Jesus.”
 - Pascal’s Wager demonstrates that ignoring the Gospel is not about reason, but pernicious unbelief.
- y. What the messenger actually said as he threw himself, exhausted, before the chief was, “I do not think I am getting paid enough money for this part.”
- As believers in Jesus Christ, we have an urgent message for the world. Do we know what it is? Are we expressly saying what so desperately needs to be heard?

-- Big Idea: As Christ’s ambassadors, we have one urgent message to take to the world.

-- Read Acts 4:1-12

-- Pray

-- This passage reveals at least four foundational facts about the message we are commissioned to proclaim.

3.) Our message is entirely humble (v. 10).

- The apostles ascribe all the glory and power to Christ.
 - Notice: The apostles speak entirely about Jesus, saying nothing about themselves.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:5 – *“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”*
 - The mission of the church is to lift up Christ, never ourselves.
- Our attitude matters almost as much as our message.
 - If we are persecuted for humbly proclaiming Christ, God is glorified and we are blessed.
 - If we are persecuted because we are arrogant, rude, or uncompassionate, we have already received our reward in full.
 - 1 Peter 3:15-16 – *“In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”*

4.) Our message is resolutely focused (v. 11).

- v. 11 – *“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.”*
- Peter’s message: It’s all about Jesus!
- Here, Peter is quoting a prophesy from Psalm 118.
 - The religious leaders, who were supposed God’s builders on earth, had rejected the most essential building block.
 - Peter is telling the men of this council that they are fulfillment of this unfortunate Scripture.
- The church exists to exalt Christ in everything.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:2 – *“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”*
 - God has made Jesus Christ the focus of all His purposes and activity in the universe.
 - Colossians 1:18 – *“[The Son] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”*
 - Ephesians 1:21-22 – *“Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world or in the world to come. And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church.”*
- Whatever does not ultimately point to Christ does not belong in the church.

5.) Our message is absolutely exclusive (v. 12).

- On August 17, 2008 at a political forum hosted by Pastor Rick Warren, President Obama was asked, “Is Jesus the only way to Heaven?” He responded, “I believe that there are many paths to the same place . . . all people of faith—Christian, Jews, Muslims, Animist—everyone knows the same God.”
- A Pew forum survey reported that 65% of Americans believe many religious led to heaven.
- Universalism is a pernicious false Gospel.
 - Universalism says that even if people don’t call specifically on Christ, they can still be saved through Him.
 - Universalism claims that believers of any faith can be saved through Christ if they are sincere in their chosen faith.
 - The Bible says something quite different.
- *“And there is salvation in no one else...”*
 - No other person or religious leader has any legitimate power to save anyone from hell.

- Therefore, the Gospel says that there is no salvation in Buddha, in Confucius, or in Mohammed. It also means that no person can save himself.
- “...for there is no other name...”
- Calling upon the name of Allah or any other god will never save anyone.
- Salvation is impossible without directly appealing to the name of Jesus Christ.
- “...under heaven...”
- By under heaven, Peter means everywhere in all of Creation.
- There is no place in the entire universe where Jesus Christ is not the one and only Savior.

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-- Application

- The only hope for all people, whether in Carmi or around the world, is to hear and receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Therefore, as Christ’s ambassadors, we have one urgent message to take to the world—that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

- Romans 10:13-15 – “*‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”*
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