June 11, 2017

Series: Keys to Life-Giving Relationships

**Life-giving News**

John 12:12-19

Growth Track Step 2 today …

**Intro:** If I’m not careful I can become a news-a-holic. I’ve not been in that season for a while, but I go through times where I watch too much news. You can get addicted to what’s going to happen next almost as much as you can get addicted to some week-to-week continuing show - and for the most part it’s not uplifting! It just adds worry! It adds frustration!

So, I go through seasons where I just avoid it. Most of the time, whatever subject they are harping on now, they will still be harping on a month from now and you can just check in once a month or so to get the additional 2 or 3 details that have been added to the story - and the rest of the time you might as well enjoy life, because getting depressed by the news is not going to make your life any better and we don’t have much power to change what is going on anyway!

It’s hard to find good news - unless you know where to look!

The Bible is all about Good News!

**Big Idea: We’ve got great life-giving news that leads to a great relationship!**

John 12:12-19 - The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted,“Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the lord! Hail to the King of Israel!”

 Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said:“Don’t be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey’s colt.”

 His disciples didn’t understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy. But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about him. Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign. Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!”

Are you looking for good news? Here are 5 great items of good news!

* 1. **Here’s the Good News: Jesus is coming!**

It was good news in Jerusalem that day when Jesus came riding in!

The Romans were in charge - they were horrible oppressors - the Jewish people had no freedom in their own country - everyone knew someone who had been persecuted or even crucified by the Roman Government. The biggest job of the Roman Governor over Judea was to keep the peace, and he had the authority to do that exercising all the military power assigned to him.

So, when Jesus comes in, and they see Him as the coming King, this is Good News!

They needed Good News! Jesus had been traveling around teaching in a way no one had ever heard anyone teach before. His teachings were so awesome that when soldiers were sent to arrest Him they couldn’t bring themselves to do it.

He taught about love, forgiveness, compassion, and He said the Kingdom of God was right there with them, like their farms and gardens.

He healed sick people, blind people, deaf people - He even brought dead people back to life -

* a son
* a daughter
* a brother

They were expecting Him to overthrow the Roman Government and that’s not what He was there to do - but even though their expectations were different than God’s overall plan - this day His coming was still Good News!

Here’s the Good News for us - Jesus is Coming!

Acts 1:9-11 - After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

John 14:1-3 -

1st Thessalonians 4:16-17 -

**2. Here’s the Good News: Jesus comes with the authority of God!**

“Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the lord!”

With this statement they were recognizing Him as the Messiah. Again, their expectations of what the Messiah would do and how he would do it may have been incorrect, but they were recognizing the Good News that the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, the Promised Deliverer from God Himself was not just coming - He has come and He is here!

They recognized that the authority Jesus had was the same authority as God - given to Him by God!

They only believed in one God - they didn’t have nor understand the concept of the Trinity - but they understood this One riding in had all the authority of God Himself - given to Him.

That’s Good News!

You should follow Jesus today and you can trust in Jesus today because He has all the same authority as Almighty God! And we have an even greater understanding than these people had - we know that Jesus and God are one and the same!

What do you need? How messed up is your situation? What kind of help do you need?

Does what you need require the authority of God to do something about it?

Here’s the Good News: Jesus Comes with the Authority of God!

**3. Here’s the Good News: Jesus is everything the prophets said He would be!**

John 12:14-16 - Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, ***fulfilling the prophecy*** that said:“Don’t be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey’s colt.”

 His disciples didn’t understand at the time that this was a ***fulfillment of prophecy.*** But after Jesus entered into his glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that ***these things had been written about him.***

Prophecy -

Zechariah 9:9 - riding in on a donkey’s colt …

Fulfilled!

Prophecy -

Isaiah 7:14 - born of a virgin …

Fulfilled!

Prophecy -

Psalm 103:3 - heal all diseases …

Fulfilled!

Prophecy -

Psalm 147:3 - he would heal the brokenhearted …

Fulfilled! What more could He do to fulfill this prophecy than giving a widow woman her dead son back to life - giving a Jewish synagogue ruler his dead daughter back to life - giving 2 weeping sisters their dead brother back to life!

Oh yeah - He heals the brokenhearted -

Here’s Good News - He can heal your broken heart …

Prophecy -

Isaiah 53:3-11 - beaten, whipped, scourged, not speak, not fight back … laid our sins upon Himself and laid His life down for those sins…

Fulfilled!

Here’s the Good News: Jesus is everything the prophets said He would be!

**4. Here’s the Good News: The news is so good it has to be shared!**

John 12:17-18 - Many in the crowd had seen Jesus call Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, and they were telling others about it. That was the reason so many went out to meet him—because they had heard about this miraculous sign.

How can you keep it quiet?

If you were living a life of fear, depression, guilt and shame - hiding from God and not believing you were good enough for Him to love you - but you then believe in that love, believe in Him - who the Bible says He is - what the Bible says He did for you …

Then, through that belief, you are set free from sin, you no longer have to keep doing the same sins over and over again - you are set free from guilt, condemnation, judgment, shame - you no longer need to hide from God or people.

You get a positive outlook on life because you know that no matter what happens God’s Spirit is with you - living inside of you!

You know that you have a whole family of people who love you and care for you no matter what your past is … Finding Freedom in Life-giving Groups …

You find out that God gives everyone spiritual gifts, and He not only wants to change your life and give you the power to live forever beyond death, but through the gifts He gives you, you can Make a Difference in the lives of others so that they can experience the same thing!

How can you keep it to yourself!

Andrae Crouch -

*I can't keep it to myself*

*Gotta go out and tell somebody*

*I can't keep it to myself*

*Somebody's lost, somebody's dyin'*

*I can't keep it to myself*

*I gotta tell somebody else*

*For they've got to know*

*That Jesus loves them so*

*Just don't keep it to yourself*

*Gotta go out and tell somebody*

*Don't keep it to yourself*

*Somebody's lost, somebody's dyin'*

*Don't keep it to yourself*

*Tell somebody else*

*For they've got to know*

*That Jesus loves them so*

*[VERSE:]*

*We all have friends that*

*Cry and cry, cause they don't even know*

*There's a God who is willing help them bear their load*

*They don't know that He cares*

*And He'll see them through the darkest night*

*How will they find out*

*There's a God above who really understands*

*And He can heal broken hearts*

*If they jus give Him a chance*

*I must go, we must go*

*And let them know*

Here’s Good News: The news is so good it has to be shared!

 **5. Here’s the Good News: The enemy is defeated.**

John 12:19 - "Then the Pharisees said to each other, “There’s nothing we can do. Look, everyone has gone after him!””

The Pharisees were the enemy of Jesus. In a few days they would turn Him over to be killed - but that wouldn’t stop Him!

Death couldn’t stop Him! The grave couldn’t hold Him!

We have enemies to our spiritual lives today -

Ephesians 6:12 - "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

Here’s the Good News - these enemies are defeated!

Here’s the beginning -

Genesis 3:14-15 - Then the Lord God said to the serpent… He will strike

your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Here’s the end -

Revelation 20:10 - "Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Here’s the Good News: The enemy is defeated.

Good News will always defeat this enemy.

Sharing the Good News that God has done for you will defeat the enemy in your life … will defeat the enemy in other’s lives… will make you stronger …

If you’ve experienced this Good News - you have a life-changing story.

Tell your story! Tell the Good News! Always look for opportunities to tell the Good News!

You don’t have to preach at Panera - all you have to do is tell your life-changing, life-giving story.

What has He done for you?

Maybe you need to receive this Good News today!

* Jesus is coming!
* He comes with the authority of God.
* He is everything the prophet’s said He would be.
* This news is so good it has to be shared.
* The enemy is defeated.

Won’t you receive this Good News for yourself today?