

you speaking to them and accept you. Amen.

29 June 2008

Cultivating Mission 2.

Matthew 10:40-42



In these examples who is the person with the authority and power: The Football Coach or the Runner. The Ambassador or the Government they represent. The Police Officer or the Law they implement. The Interpreter or the Speaker. In each case the power and the authority comes from the person that it originates from.

If you were playing sport and the coach's runner told you to come off the field, why would you listen to the runner? Because they speak with the coach's authority and power. That means what they say is actually quite important. What they say actually carries influence and power, but not because of them, but because of the one who sent them.

In today's Gospel reading we are being reminded that through Jesus we have become God's

runners. Jesus sends us to speak the Father's word. The runner mightn't have any power and authority of their own, but because of the word they bring they have the power and influence to change the course of a game. We speak powerful and authoritative words, when we speak about Jesus, when we speak God's word, because we are sent by him.

This means our words are not inconsequential. They have the power and authority of the person who sent us. That's why I love John 20:21, where Jesus says; "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." I haven't simply decided to go and sprout forth some dream of my own.

That's the warning from the Old Testament reading for today. Hananiah, you get the impression was only saying what he

thought the king wanted to hear. But his words had no power or authority. What he said didn't come true because he wasn't sent by God at all. It ended in his death – lying in God's name is never a good idea!

But what Jeremiah said came true, because he was sent by God. It didn't come true because Jeremiah was such a good bloke. I get the impression Jeremiah was all too human, just like us, and at times he comes across quite depressed. What Jeremiah said came true because the one who sent him had the power and authority to accomplish it. That's why Jeremiah's words were powerful and Hananiah's were empty.

As Jesus' disciples we are his sent people. And because we are his sent people we speak with his power and authority. What Jesus says, will come true. Not because

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

I'm a good bloke, but because Jesus has the power and authority to do it. And Jesus has sent all his disciples to speak for him. To speak of the peace he comes to give.

Jesus gave his life that the world might be reconciled to God. "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Cor. 5:19,20) That is what we are sent to say – In Jesus, be reconciled to God.

And the Gospel for today also reminds us that when we speak and people believe, they will be blessed. "Whoever welcomes someone known to be a prophet will receive a prophet's reward." (Matt. 10:41)

I must admit that when I first read this passage I

thought it was the prophet who received the reward. But no, it is the person who listens. The person who recognizes that this person is speaking the word of God is the one rewarded.

What's a prophet's reward? I'd say that what they say will come true. You can stake your life on it. Instead of listening to

You are Sent by Jesus

Hananiah, if the king had listened to Jeremiah he would have made decisions that didn't lead to disaster. Hananiah told the king what he wanted to hear, and the king was content with that, but he wasn't all that thrilled when the Babylonians totally destroyed Jerusalem. And I'm sure Hananiah wasn't all that thrilled about his own death.

Jesus was sent by the Father that we might build our lives on his word.

And the great thing about Jesus' word is that it isn't

empty, but he is the word. Jesus unlike Hananiah was pleased about his own death, because the Father had sent Jesus for this very reason. That through his death the just penalty for sin would be paid in full, and we could be free to live under God's grace.

And because Jesus was sent by the Father, and he faithfully spoke, lived the word, what he promised has come true, and will come true. We receive that wonderful reward, won by Jesus. The reward of eternal life with God as our loving Father. We receive our sins forgiven, and now we live under God's grace and not his wrath. What a fantastic reward we reap in Jesus, as we accept his word.

What a fantastic reward other people reap as they hear about Jesus from you and me, and are ushered into this wonderful loving relationship with God. God won't fail to give what he says through you and me.

If we choose to ignore Jesus and go it alone, we won't fail to receive what God has promised either – his wrath!

In the Gospel of John after sending us, Jesus says; "If you forgive the sins of anyone, their sins are forgiven and if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:23) We don't speak empty meaningless words, but the word we speak does have the power to set people free. It does have the power to break the hold of sin on a person's life that they might live under God's blessing and not be held as a captive to fear, regret, guilt, worry. The word of forgiveness you speak in Jesus' name, because he has sent you will do what it promises. The person will receive the reward of their sins forgiven, and the freedom that Jesus offers.

In Matthew Jesus says; "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matt.

18:18) As Jesus' sent people we speak with his authority and power. What a wonderful privilege and responsibility. So when you pray for someone you're not waffling on, but what you ask to be bound will be, and what you ask to be freed, will be. For the word we speak has the power and authority of Jesus to

Jesus power and authority goes with those he sends

accomplish what it says. So when we speak about Jesus coming back to judge the living and the death, and people believe it and repent, getting in right relationship with Jesus, you've just made an eternal difference. They will receive the reward of their sins forgiven and eternal life with God as their loving Father. What a powerful word we are sent to speak. Jeremiah is an interesting prophet because you get the sense that at times he'd rather not speak and

save himself the grief of people's rejection. But the passion burned so deep within him, he always had to speak – and God's word did what it promised.

You are sent by Jesus, his runner with the precious good news, that people can be put right with God, have their sins forgiven in Jesus' name and be adopted as God's loved precious children through the water's of baptism, sharing life with their Heavenly Father, feasting for eternity on his fathomless love.

Some will like it, others will reject it, Jesus has sent you to speak for him, as if he was there himself.

Let us pray. Jesus, thank you for the people you sent to tell us about you. Thank you that we have been able to take you at your word. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might speak in your love, grace and mercy, with your courage and wisdom so that all the people we come into contact with might hear