

Hosanna

Four Faces of the Messiah

Week One: The Face of the Man

Introduction:

Good morning and welcome to... My name is....

Thank you for joining us for our brand new series called "Hosanna" where together over the next four weeks we are going to discover the four faces of the Messiah. We will start today and go all of the way to Easter Sunday.

Did you know? Easter is a great time to invite someone to Church.

We've all used and heard the excuses:

- Everyone I know goes to church.
- I've already asked _____ so many times.
- I'm afraid they'll think I'm being pushy.
- What if they say no?

Well they might say no but they might say yes. A recent study found that if asked, a non church goer is 87% more likely to say yes on or around Easter. An invitation could change someone's life. Step out of your comfort zone and invite someone, we will make it easy for you! We have bringvites, door hangers, even the passive and easy to use YARD SIGN.

Lets jump into today's message:

ILLUSTRATION: Have you ever wondered what Jesus is actually like? You grew up hearing a lot about what Jesus wanted you to do, but very little about what He was actually like, right? As a teenager, everything and anything that had to do with religion terrified me. I was literally so terrified of going to hell that it became difficult to fall asleep at night out of fear - and it would be years later before I discovered that Jesus was not just someone who demanded my obedience and watched me 24/7 to see when I was going to deserve punishment. (Tell a story about a time you has a misconception of who Jesus really is or what God is really like: maybe you saw God as an old white man in the sky, or a cowboy, or a distant father, an angry god, etc.)

Regardless of what you've heard about Jesus or maybe believed about Jesus or God, it is so important that we go back to the Bible. The Bible teaches us about who God is and in this

CONTEXT: Open your Bible to Ezekiel. The book of Ezekiel drops us in on July 31st, 593 BC (literally, this is the exact date scholars have dated the beginning of Ezekiel to), where a priest and prophet named Ezekiel starts his priestly ministry at the age of 30. And who else started their ministry at the age of 30? Jesus. **Nothing in the Bible is by accident and everything in the Bible points back to Jesus.** More about this later.

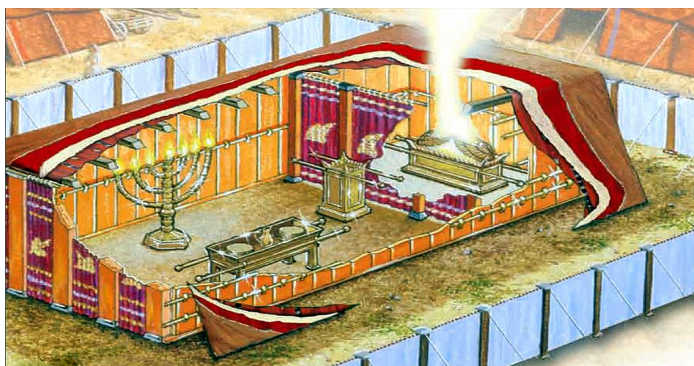
This man, Ezekiel gets a vision of the throne of God and it's wild.

Ezekiel 1: 4-10

As I looked, I saw a great storm coming from the north, driving before it a huge cloud that flashed with lightning and shone with brilliant light. There was fire inside the cloud, and in the middle of the fire glowed something like gleaming amber. From the center of the cloud came four living beings that looked human, except that each had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight, and their feet had hooves like those of a calf and shone like burnished bronze. Under each of their four wings I could see human hands. So each of the four beings had four faces and four wings. The wings of each living being touched the wings of the beings beside it. Each one moved straight forward in any direction without turning around. Each had a human face in the front, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle at the back.

Stay with me here, this is worth learning - it will change your life.

Later in this same book, Ezekiel tells us that these creatures with the four faces on them were Cherubim. **And where else are these Cherubim? In the tabernacle.** In the Old Testament, the tabernacle is a great model of who Jesus is. The similarities aren't coincidence, they're purposeful. Jesus said that he was the door - the only way to God. There was only one entrance into the tabernacle. Jesus is the only way to God and the only way into God's presence in the Old Testament was to enter the tabernacle. There was a ritual sacrifice needed in the tabernacle. Jesus is our once for all sacrifice. The bible talks about the fact that we need to be washed with the water of the word. People would be ritually washed before entering the tabernacle. Jesus is the word of God made flesh. **Everything in the tabernacle is about Jesus.** The outside of the tabernacle wasn't that beautiful - it wasn't until you get on the inside that you see



the glory of God (same thing with Jesus). In the tabernacle, there were cherubim (woven into the hangings and sculpted onto the ark of the covenant).

If everything else in the tabernacle was a picture of Jesus, scholars think that the Cherubim were a picture of Jesus too.

- Literally there are these angels up in heaven who are Cherubs who have four faces that are a reflection of who Jesus is in some way.

TRANSITION: And these next four weeks - we're going to be talking all about the four faces of Jesus. Like the cherubim, the New Testament Gospel Writers all show us a different face of Jesus in Each Gospel.

Did you know that God already knows you? Like really, really knows you. Every thought you've ever had and every dream that's ever made your heart flutter. Every anxious thought that has kept you up throughout the night. All of it. **God knows you because God made you.**

Psalm 139:1-6

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.

Do you know Him as intimately as He knows you?

Context: The Gospel of Luke reveals the humanity of Jesus more than any other gospel - it reveals the face of the man. Luke goes to great lengths to try and get us to understand that Jesus was fully...human. He came into this world biologically. Luke was a physician so it makes sense that he would write about Jesus emphasizing his humanity.

Luke 3:23-24

Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry.

Jesus was known as the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Heli. Heli was the son of Matthat....

And on and on until we get all the way back to...

Luke 3:38b

Seth was the son of Adam. Adam was the son of God.

Wait, why does it matter that Jesus came from the same family tree as Adam? When it comes to His love for you, God loves a grand gesture. Check this out...Through Adam - the son of God - we lost our good-standing with God through his selfishness.

Through Jesus - the Son of God - we got it back through His sacrifice. In the never-ending story of one family tree throughout scripture, God injects Himself into the story as God the Son in human flesh so that we could be saved.

But why? Why did He have to become human? Why would the creator of everything that ever was and ever will be want to become like...us?

Remember, God already knows you - intimately. He didn't need to become human to understand you or know you, He knows everything.

God already understands us, He became a man so we could understand Him.

Jesus came into the world to communicate with us. He's the greatest communicator in all of human history. Which begs the question: How did Jesus communicate? Lets see what Luke had to say about the first record of Jesus communicating on Earth.

Luke 2:46

Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

Jesus, GOD in the flesh, who already knew everything these people were telling Him in the first place - listened first.

James, his brother, would later write in

James 1:19

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

We don't follow a list of rules because we have to out of fear of punishment - we follow a person because of who He is - and following the greatest communicator of all time will rub off on you.

The first step in communicating is listening.

Want to live out your purpose? Want to take a step towards becoming the kind of person God created you to be? Stop talking and listen.

How Do We Communicate Like Jesus?

1. Listen to Jesus.

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

God is love... This is the definition of love. He isn't a bully, He won't scream, he will whisper. You can't hear him with distractions.

ILLUSTRATION: How many times do we push off and move without listening to Jesus.

How much pain in life would we avoid if we learned to better listen to Him first. Prayer as a last resort instead of first response.

connect this to relationships as well - practicing for marriage means you have to listen to who you're with here and now as well

2. Listen to your Spiritual Family.

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

There are people in your life right now who know things you need to know, who have been through things you're going to go through, who have found freedom from sin that you're still stuck in.

You need them. God didn't design you to go through life alone. If you'll have us, you will always have a spiritual family here at Vintage Church.

join a small group, etc.

3. Listen to the culture.

1 Corinthians 9:22

22 When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.

What culture do you live in? Maybe you're a teacher and you see a depressed student battle each day believing the lie that nothing will ever get better again.

(HEIGHTS) Maybe you're in the military and you know someone who believes the lie that their loneliness can somehow be fixed with one more affair. **(BELTON)** Maybe you're a college student and someone you know believes the lie that the casual sex they've been having won't hurt them deeply at a soul level.

You can't help someone heal from a lie if you don't listen enough to figure out why they believe it in the first place. Listen to them and help them recognize that what they're really looking for can't be found in the places they're looking.

Big Idea

Heard people hear people. Jesus hears us - we can hear others - and when we hear others, others will hear us when we tell them the good news about Jesus. We reflect God when we listen to Jesus, to our community and our culture.

The people in your life won't hear what you have to say about Jesus to them unless you hear what they have to say about their brokenness to you.

Romans 1:25

They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise!

And for that matter, you can't help others find freedom from their sin if you're still a slave to yours.

Maybe you're here today and you've been trying to follow a list of rules. You've been trying to be good enough and do good enough and earn your way into God's good graces - stop. It will never work.

Maybe you're the exact opposite of that - you aren't a rule-follower at all. So much so that you couldn't imagine yourself ever following all the rules you think you have to follow to be a "Christian". Sin will never quench what you're thirsty for, it will only make you even more parched. Only Jesus, the fountain of living water will satisfy the desires of your heart.

TAKE A NEXT STEP, SLIP YOUR HAND UP, GET A START HERE BOOK, JOIN A GROUP FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMUNITY, ETC.