

Together Proclaiming – 1 Peter 2:9-10

Sermon – Pastor Joe Davis
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INTRODUCTION

MOVIE CLIP OF SAMARITAN WOMAN/JESUS (From “Gospel of John”)

She was a woman of questionable character from a people group of bad reputation. But instead of judgment and condemnation, God’s Son offered her truth, abundant mercy and living water, inviting her to peace with God and life filled up with his presence...inviting her take on a new identity in a holy nation made up of God’s people from every tribe, people group and tongue. And what did the woman do in response? She took off running and started spreading the news to everyone all around. In awe and gratefulness for the great mercy shown to her when she expected judgment, she began to proclaim the excellencies of Jesus Christ to others. And what happened? Many, many others came to meet him, believe in him, receive his mercy, and then loudly proclaim it to even more people. Once they were not a people, but now they were the people of God. Once they had not received mercy, but now it was theirs forever!

And what would we think of the Samaritan woman if she had come to see and know the Savior and experience his love and mercy, but then kept it quietly to herself and shared him with no one? We would think: how selfish. How ungrateful. How strange that she wouldn’t be bubbling over about the good news she had just received and experienced for herself.

Let’s read our passage this morning and see how it ties in with what we just saw happen with the Samaritan woman and her people. Turn with me in your Bibles, if you would, to 1 Peter 2:9-10. Here we go:

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

If you've been following along at all with the outline of 1 Peter that I gave you when we began this study, you'll realize that we are coming to the end of the 3rd major section of the book:

1:1-1:2 **Greeting Us with God's Will**

1:3-1:12 **The Great Salvation God Has Brought to Us**

A. Born again to a living hope and an imperishable inheritance (1:3-5)

B. A salvation that brings joy even through the times of testing (1:6-9)

C. A salvation that prophets and angels longed to understand (1:10-12)

1:13-2:10 **Therefore...a Big Picture View of the Saved Life**

A. Setting your faith and hope in God (1:13-21)

B. Learning to love through knowing and obeying the Word (1:22-2:3)

C. **Living with the body to proclaim God's excellencies**
(2:4-10)

A NEW IDENTITY TOGETHER

So let's take a look now at our final 2 verses that wrap up *The Big Picture View of the Saved Life*, verses 9 and 10 of chapter 2. And I'll start by giving you the first heading in your sermon notes, which is this: *A New Identity Together*. Looking at the first half of verse 9, we notice four extraordinary phrases describing the new identity God has given us in Christ. In contrast to those people in verses 7 and 8 who have chosen NOT to believe in Jesus and are thereby tripping over him and taking offense at him...In contrast, you and I who have by God's grace come to Jesus in simple repentance and faith; we are now ***a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for [God's] own possession***. We are like the Samaritan woman: forgiven and given a new identity and purpose and precious value in the sight of God. As we saw in verses 4 to 8, we are now alive, chosen and precious in God's sight.

So let's think for a minute about these four adjectives that describe who we now are in Christ. First, we are *chosen*. The meaning is hand-picked, selected, pulled out of a group. Were you ever the one who got picked last when teams were being formed in school? That's never fun, is it? Well, in Christ, that's no longer an issue. No matter your athletic ability, your appearance, your popularity, your personality, you are hand-picked and welcomed onto God's team *as you are*, having something perfectly unique and valuable to contribute to the overall body of Christ. We are each *chosen*.

Secondly, we are *royal*. This word in Greek is derived from *basileios*, meaning, “a king.” (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary*). It means we are connected with and sent out by the King of all Kings. We’re part of the King’s household now. We represent him and go out backed by his power and authority and given what we need to accomplish his purposes in the world. Though the world doesn’t recognize our royal identity unless the King opens their eyes, that doesn’t change the fact that that’s who we are. We’re the King’s sons and daughters out in the world on his mission incognito. We are *royal* and on a *royal* mission.

Thirdly, we are *holy*. Meaning we are set apart for God’s purposes. He’s pulled us out from the group and called us to be totally different from the rest...to think differently, to act differently, to talk differently, to have totally different priorities in life. We’ve become devoted to God and to his purposes for our lives. Instead of being devoted to ourselves and to our pleasures and our glory, like the rest of the world, we’re now devoted and set apart for God and his purposes and his glory. And he’s leading us to become more and more like him...like our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are *holy* in Christ.

And finally, we are *a people for God’s own possession*. We are no longer our own. We belong to God. He paid the price to set us free from sin and slavery, and now he is our Master, our Father, our Lord, our everything. And he is good. He is lovingkindness. He is mercy. And he wants us to stay free and not return to those things that held us captive and were destroying our lives before he rescued us. ***For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery*** (Galatians 5:1). ***You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body*** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We are *a people who belong to God* now and he desires and leads us to good and to freedom from the destructive patterns that used to guide our lives.

Now as we continue to think about this new *chosen, royal, holy* identity God as given us as *his people*, we also notice in verse 9 that this is our identity *together*. In other words, in these verses the emphasis is on God’s people *together*, rather than an individual focus. The words are all plural here. We are a race, a priesthood, a nation, a people...all words speaking of groups of people together. You see, it’s so easy for us to get an individual focus in our relationship with God: “It’s just me and Christ and that’s what really matters.” Especially in American culture this is a strong tendency.

And this is not to minimize the importance of our personal relationship with and following of Christ. Ultimately, we only have control over our own choices and actions and to our own Master, Jesus Christ, we stand or fall. And we hold on to Christ, no matter what anyone else does or says or fails to do or say. We don't let other people's choices or actions ever distract us or turn us away from following Christ. Our individual relationship with Christ is essential and very important.

But to understand Scripture, we must never ignore or overlook the extreme importance of the community of Christ-followers...of the body of Christ made up of many members...of the stone house God is building out of us *together*...of the gathering and working together of God's people...of the race, the priesthood, the nation, the people God has bound us together with forever. We been chosen to live and work together as God's people in God's household. We need each other to be effective. We're called to love each other and work together no matter what. We have a new family. We have a new identity *together*. Let's hold tightly to each other, and value each other, and love each other deeply with endurance and patience, so that together we can accomplish God's mission and reveal him powerfully to the world. *A New Identity Together*.

A NEW PURPOSE IN LIFE

Now as we move on to the second half of verse 9, we notice that we also have *A New Purpose in Life*. That's the second heading in your sermon notes: *A New Purpose in Life*. What is that purpose? ***That you may PROCLAIM the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*** This is a very straightforward truth that we must not miss or explain away. The word, "that," gives us an unmistakable clue pointing to *a purpose statement*. The simple truth of this verse is that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God's own possession, FOR a very specific purpose. We have this new identity with other Christ-followers SO THAT we will do something together. And what is it? Well, there's only one thing given in this verse. It's crystal clear. Our purpose as God's people is to PROCLAIM.

What does this word mean? The meaning of the Greek word is simply "to tell out, proclaim abroad, to publish completely...[to] show forth..." (*Vine's Expository Dictionary*). Just what you would expect it to mean, except that the emphasis on full and complete proclamation is even more intense than in the English. The

picture is a full and complete and continuous proclamation in words and action...both speaking and showing! And what are we speaking and showing? The excellencies, the virtues, the wonderful attributes, the glorious and trustworthy wisdom of the one true God! Proclaiming him fully and completely in words and action is our new purpose in life as God's people...as God's priests...as the sons and daughters of the King of Kings. Are you currently living out your new purpose in your daily life? Are you speaking out God's excellencies to those around you? That's God's purpose for the people of his own possession. As Isaiah declared in Isaiah 43:20-21:

The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

A GOD WORTHY OF PRAISE

And this brings us to our final heading in your sermon notes: *A God Worthy of Praise*. God is so worth proclaiming, with all the intensity and bubbling forth we saw in the Samaritan woman and more! And that's because he is perfectly good and loving and merciful and just and powerful and wise, and he is longing to share all of himself with every person in the world. He is the One we all want and long for and hunger for in our lives, whether we realize it or not. And he's not asking us to proclaim because he NEEDS recognition or glory or affirmation. He doesn't need any of that. He's perfectly sufficient and happy and fulfilled in himself; in the love and communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Instead, God is calling us to proclaim him because he is infinitely worthy of proclaiming, and he wants to share the perfect love and communion he has in himself with all of his created ones.

We all exist by him and for him and he's the only one in the universe worthy of all the glory and honor and thanks and love we could ever give and more. He's the Creator, the Sustainer, the Rescuer, the One who out his abundant and overflowing mercy wants to pour out his undeserved love and favor on those who have ignored him and rejected him and refused to give him the glory, honor and thanks he alone deserves. Yet still he loves, still he takes action, still he makes the way for everyone to break free from the trap we've gotten ourselves into. And

for those of us who have already experienced his rescue through Christ, our call is to proclaim and speak out and publish this good news to others.

And what else would make sense when we consider what he's done for us? Looking back at our verses, Peter provides us with 3 beautiful statements of what God has done for us as we've come to him through repentance and faith in Christ. First, he's ***called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shone*** (Isaiah 9:2). We were wandering around in the dark, believing lies and having no trustworthy guide to life. Without the fear of the Lord, all basis and foundation for absolute truth was removed. We were lost; feeling our way around in the dark, unable to see the cliffs and drop-offs and traps all around us. We were without hope and without God in the world. But through Jesus, the Light of the World, a wonderful and brilliant light came on and suddenly we can see the world and ourselves as they are and we have the perfect guidebook to life in the universe God created. As described in 2 Corinthians 4:6:

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Imagine what it would be like to live on earth in complete darkness instead of having the sun rise every day, and you'll begin to better appreciate the reality of what God has accomplished for us in the spiritual realm through Christ and his light.

But in addition to the marvelous light, Peter gives us two more reasons to be bubbling over in proclaiming God and his excellencies. The first is this: ***once you were not a people, but now you are God's people***. In other words, we've gone *from being nobody to being God's-body*. Like the Samaritan woman, who was previously on the outside looking in on God's people, we've been welcomed to come into his house and stay there. We've become his very own sons and daughters living in his house. From nobody to God's-body, and totally apart from any earning of it or deserving of it. Simply God's grace and mercy and kindness poured out on the undeserving. Don't you want to proclaim it and give others the same grace you've been given?

And a final reason Peter gives us to live a life of proclamation is this: ***once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*** Previously, you and I were under God's wrath and judgment for our sin. And it was totally deserved. God would have been just and justified to give us the wrath and judgment we deserved...to pay us the wages we deserved for sin. But instead, he gave us mercy. Wonderful, unexpected, joy-inducing, mercy. This mercy is now ours in Christ. We have received it. It's a done deal.

Do you know anyone else who could use this same mercy? Proclaim it to them. Tell the full story. Show them in words and action that they too can receive the beautiful, undeserved, overflowing mercy of the one true God!

CONCLUSION

That's the amazing privilege and calling and purpose we now have as those who have been given the gracious gift of moving *from darkness to light; from nobody to God's-body, and from no mercy to abundant mercy.* Proclaim it! Speak it out! Show it in words and actions! Show it in your steadfast love for each other! Proclaim the excellencies of our great and merciful God, full of lovingkindness that he longs to share with rest of the world through us.

Are you proclaiming him today? You're somebody now if you're in Christ. You've been commissioned and empowered by the King and set apart for him and his purposes. And your simple calling is loud and full and continuous proclamation. We have so many reasons to do it. We've only looked at 3 today, but we'll spend the rest of our lives and eternity discovering more and more reasons to bubble forth in proclamation about him everywhere we go...to join the chorus of all creation in singing God's praises and revealing him to the world. Like the Samaritan woman and her people; like those healed by Jesus who couldn't keep their mouths shut; let's boldly and fully spread the good news about him everywhere we go. Let's take up the calling of David and every other fully surrendered God follower:

***1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall commend your works to another,***

and shall declare your mighty acts. 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. 6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. 7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, 12 to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. (Psalm 145:1–12)

God, lead us to proclaim you this way...to take up our calling in life as your chosen race, your royal priesthood, your holy nation...as people who know they belong to you and are created to declare your praise!