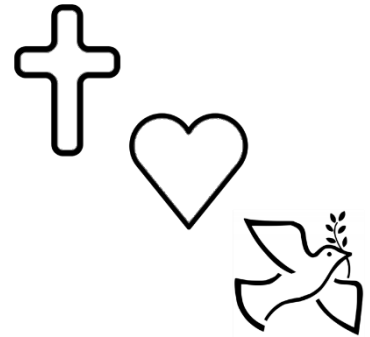


October 18, 2020
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh
1 & 2 Thessalonians, Lesson 4
Receiving the Word



This series of meditations is based on the books of First and Second Thessalonians.

The Letters to the Thessalonians were written by Paul to confirm the truths he had taught while he was with them and to dispel any false teachings that had spread among them. He commended them for their faith, encouraged them to press on in faith and love, and showed why they could always have hope in Christ.

Receiving the Word

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

¹³And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. ¹⁴For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, ¹⁵who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men ¹⁶in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

Paul begins to thank again the receivers of the Word of God.

1. First he thanked God in 1 Thess. 1:3 for their:

- works produced by faith,
- labor prompted by love,
- and endurance inspired by the hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Now again he is mentioning – We *also* thank you for receiving the Word. (1 Thess. 2:13)

You have **heard it** from men like us but **treated it** as the Word of God. This reception has transformed you from worshiping idols to the true God.

You have become imitators of God's churches in Judea.

3. The enemies of the Gospel drove us out, yet you continue to grow.

Let us examine ourselves:

A. When did you receive the Word of God?

B. Who spoke to you the Word of God?

C. How did you display your transformation that people can witness it, so that they will also want to follow the Lord?

Who is the Word?

John says it is the Word who created, the Word who convinced, the Word who convicted us. The Word is God. (John 1:1, 14)

When we received and applied it, did we not become a new creation? (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The transformation is seen by the people around us.

In the Gospel we see the people who received the Word.

Blind were healed to see. (ex. John 9)

Lame were healed to walk. (ex. John 5)

Deaf were healed to listen. (ex. Mark 7:31-37)

Lives were changed.

Let me take one miracle of a person who received the Word.

Demon-possessed man in Gerasenes

(Luke 8:26-39; Mark 5:1-20)

A demon-possessed man, he has been chained, but he can break free, naked, no man could calm him, living in a solitary place. His home was among the tombs (in a cemetery). People were afraid of him.

Jesus was visiting this area, this man saw Jesus and reacted immediately:

- Cried out
- Fell at his feet
- Shouted aloud – “What do you want with me Jesus, the Son of the Most High God?”
- “I beg you, don’t torture me.”

He recognized this Word, who is Jesus? He is Almighty.

He can destroy both body and soul.

He is the Son of the most High God.

Jesus wants to help this man.

The Word spoke the word - which has power.

His command has authority over all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).

At his command - the wind ceases, the storms become calm (Mark 4:35-41).

At His command the dead man rose – “Lazarus come out” (John 11:1-44).

He is the Living bread, he can feed every person. He fed thousands when he prayed (Matthew 14:13-21).

He is the Living Water – any one who thirsts, come to me and drink and you will never thirst again. The Samaritan woman - (John 4, Isaiah 55)

He is the Shepherd of my Soul – I will not have any want as He supplies what I need. He leads me, He feeds me (Psalm 23).

Now let us see what happened to this demon-possessed man? He commanded the evil spirit to come out and asked their name. They then requested Jesus to send them into the herd of pigs. He **commanded** them and **gave permission** to go there and drowned with the pigs. The whole town came to know about it and came to see Jesus, and saw this man:

Vs. 35 – Sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed, and in his right mind, and transformed.

He was requesting and begging to go with him or follow him. Jesus commanded him. **Mark 5: 18-20**

“Go home to your family, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”

He obeyed his command and “went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.”

Yes, when we receive the Word with sincerity we are also transformed.

- We are dressed with the robes of righteousness.
- We are in our right mind.
- People can see the difference.

The people of Gerasenes were more worried about the property, the possession of pigs, rather than a man who had been living as dead.

They could not control and calm him but also were not interested in helping him through the Word.

They asked Jesus to leave the town.

The same thing happened to Paul when he was driven out from the town by the Thessalonians. They were not happy to let Paul and his companions preach about the Word which was Jesus Christ the Lord.

But thank God the work was done through the Word. The demon-possessed man was healed and became sane. The Thessalonians have turned from idols to the True God and were ready to live out their faith in spite of opposition.

What has he commanded you to do and tell?

Let us thank God wherever the Word is preached.

Let us thank God wherever the transformation of lives is taking place.

Let us also thank God and pray for the preachers of the Word.

References used in preparing sermons in this series:

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