



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

The Story of a Name!

Luke 10:1-24

Message #34 of 50 – S813

Sermon given on October 14, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Story of a Name!

Luke 10:1-24

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 10**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Your name is important – it is one of the ways we connect with one another
- When someone knows your name – it implies some kind of relationship
- There is something about being known that can give us joy
- It is my habit to try to greet people by name whenever I can
- At the store, use their name as you interact with them, watch their response
- And the more important the person is who knows our name, the more impact that has on our life
- Today, will look at the fact that God knows your name
- And how that should influence us
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Story of a Name!**
- Our account today begins with a bunch of guys whose names we do not know
- **Luke 10:1-2**
- ‘the harvest truly is great’ = there is a great number of people who are ready to hear the gospel and respond
- Interesting that Jesus doesn’t tell them to share the gospel, but to pray
- You might feel like you can’t do much for God – pray for harvesters
- **Luke 10:3-9**
- This appears to be a temporary assignment – to prepare for His arrival
- Endows them with the same kind of power from the Holy Spirit when He did this with the Twelve Apostles

- Having heard how things went with the Twelve, they might have thought this was going to be easy – everyone must hear – and when they have heard they will believe and receive Jesus
- Jesus tells them differently
- **Luke 10:10-15**
- Whole cities were going to reject the message of Jesus Christ, just like we saw last time the city of the Samaritans reject Jesus
- Shaking or wiping the dust off themselves was a symbolic proclamation of God's judgment upon their cities
- Some might not share the gospel because they are afraid of being rejected – you probably will be – wipe off the dust and move on
- There are almost 8 billion people alive on this planet and most of them are headed to hell
- The harvest is great, move on – maybe the next person wants what God is offering them
- Then Jesus tells them something to instill boldness in them – this verse encourages me to teach with boldness also
- **Luke 10:17**
- Even though God can and does speak to His people directly – He also speaks through people
- Jesus tells these 70 nameless, anonymous guys that they have been commissioned to speak on His behalf to people
- And if they don't listen to you – they are actually rejecting Me (Jesus)
- I believe God has called me to speak on His behalf to His people through His Spirit and His Son through His Word **1 Peter 4:11**
If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- I believe every word in this book is true and has the power to transform lives for the better
- And I want desperately for every person who hears my voice to believe just as I do, so that they can experience God as I have
- But I am a realist – some will reject the things I say
- They are not rejecting me, they are rejecting Jesus and His words
- And before you dismiss me as 'just a man, expressing my opinions'

- How do you know that is true?
- I am just a man, and if these are just my words – disregard them if you want
- But if I am a spirit-filled messenger of God, rejecting God’s message could cost you more than you can imagine
- Rejecting God’s messenger is rejecting Jesus and God
- We’re not told how long they are gone, but they come back with good news
- **Luke 10:17**
- These unnamed disciples of Jesus come back from their mission trip rejoicing that God used them powerfully as they went out in the name of Christ
- They went out preaching and healing – ‘even demons are subject to us’
- There is power in the name of Christ **Philippians 2:9-11**
Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- There is a danger to those who are used powerfully by God
- There is a root of pride in every human heart, and success our pride, even when the success is for the kingdom of God
- It is tragic how often great men of God have fallen prey to the sin of pride and been ruined, and left a wake of carnage in the lives of those God called them to lead to Him
- I am so thankful for men like Pastor Randy, for Kevin, Andy, Larry, and Chuck, and others – they’re watching me – keeping me humble to protect you
- Jesus must sense something in them
- **Luke 10:18**
- Satan’s sin was pride – thought he should be equal to God
- **Luke 10:19**
- Everything you have, you have because I gave it to you
- Everything you did, you were able to do because I empowered you to do it
- Do what I direct you to do and nothing can harm you

- ‘serpents and scorpions’ are symbols of evil throughout Scripture
- **Luke 10:20**
- These 70 unnamed guys are rejoicing because demons are subject to them, meaning they obey these guys when they command the demons to come out of their victims
- Jesus says, so what! Something infinitely more important than that is what you should be rejoicing – your names are written in heaven
- There is a place for being excited about what God is doing through your life
- But you can’t base your joy on that
- John the Beloved was used by God – and then they tried to boil him in oil – exiled him to Patmos
- Apostle Paul was used to spread the church more than anyone alive at the time – once pelted with stones and left for dead, eventually beheaded
- The Bible teaches that there are books in heaven that record different things
- One of those books is a book of names **Revelation 3:5**
He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- Every human who has ever lived has their name in the Book of Life
- But if someone rejects Jesus, their name is blotted out of that Book
- In the future, there will be a day of judgment – Book of Life will be opened
- Those whose names are there will enter heaven and live there with Jesus forever
- If someone’s name is not there, because they rejected Jesus, they will be judged for their sins
- Jesus died for their sins, but because they reject Him, they reject His sacrifice on their behalf, they have to pay for their sins themselves
- Back to our text, Jesus then does something that is very cool
- **Luke 10:21-24**
- Jesus rejoiced – at the thought of His people’s names written in heaven, Jesus rejoiced

- Think about that for a second – the thought of their names written in heaven and all it implied caused God the Son to rejoice
- Brothers and sisters – if you are a believer in Jesus Christ – your name is written in heaven
- I want to take just a few minutes before Communion to share what that means to us
- Because Communion is a reminder of how we were able to have our names written in heaven
- If you are in Jesus' Book of Life means:
- Your sins are forgiven – every reason for guilt is gone forever
- You have access to the presence of God anytime you want
- The Holy Spirit lives in you to help you
- There is an inheritance reserved for you in heaven
- You are going to heaven
- Paul wrote something that I can't read without sensing the joy he must have felt as he wrote it **Ephesians 1:3-6**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ than you are one of the 'accepted in the Beloved' of God
- Listen, looking around this world, or maybe around your life, you may not see something to rejoice about – your name is written in heaven
- People reject you – rejoice in the fact that your name is written in heaven
- Your health is bad – your relationships are messed up – your finances are broken – your kids are rebelling – your job is the worst – you can't find a job – news scares you – politics annoy you
- Listen Christians ought to be the most joyful people on earth
- I'm not talking about some silly kumbaya kind of false joy
- I'm talking about the kind of joy that looks at all the things of this world through the lens of knowing my name is written in heaven
- Even all the good must be viewed through that same lens
- Paul made it simple for us **Philippians 4:4**

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

- As we partake of Communion, let us reflect upon the fact that our names are written in heaven – let it fill your heart with His joy
- **Pray!**