

Christ Lutheran Church

*Hear God's Word, Grow in Jesus,
Share His love*

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To the ends of the earth – Give God the glory. Part 3 of 3
Isaiah 62:1-5 by Pastor Dave Goehmann

I don't mean to brag but.... Have you ever heard that phrase? Sometimes it's used poorly because technically we are bragging. But other times it could be used appropriately.

Some of you might be thinking that we really should never say, "I don't mean to brag". What about Jesus? After He did the miracle and changed water into wine, couldn't he have said, "I don't mean to brag, but I was the one who turned the water into wine." Given the fact that he was Jesus, he could have bragged all he wanted. He could have at any point drew attention to his miracles, his teachings, and his acts of love toward others. And because of that, could we brag about our Savior Jesus?

Maybe glory is a better Word. We give God glory because of what he has done. We proclaim the greatness of God for what he has done. We are giving him credit for everything he is and has done for us. See, we really do have nothing to brag about. We are awesome on account of what God has done. To God be the glory.

It would be a disservice to God if we did not share how great he is. It would be a disservice to God if we did not sing his praises, not only in church, but in our everyday lives. God deserves the credit, the glory, and all the praise. Our God, Jesus our Lord, is the only true God in this world. We, as Christians, are the only ones who experience real love. We are the only ones who experience real forgiveness. We are the only ones that experience the joys of God's salvation.

On the outside, people often can't see the difference. We look the same as others who don't believe in Jesus. We do good things just like every one else. We give of our time and energy for a good cause. We organize our finances, our marriages, our health and everything under the sun just like everyone else.

But it is what is on the inside, that really matters. It's the peace on the inside of knowing that we are loved. It's the peace on the inside of knowing that

the things of this world will simply pass away and we will be in heaven. It's the peace of and contentment of being held in the Savior's arms.

Yes, we neglect God's actions, we start to worry. We start to feel ill content with our lives. We start to wish we had it good like other people. We start to believe that we are just the same and we are nothing different. We start to feel, because of who we are that we are like the rest of this God forsaken world. Just Stop it. Stop it. Jesus said "my God, My God, why have you forsaken me" The answer is that Jesus was forsaken so that no one should ever say those words again. You will not be called forsaken and don't you say those words any more.

God says he will not rest until we get it. He will not rest while we wander off into doubt. He will not rest while we drag ourselves into thinking we are not loved. He will not rest until every single person has the opportunity to see his love is real and true. God desires that all people are saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. He died and rose for us, so that would be even possible to call ourselves loved.

The funny thing about God in this passage from Isaiah is that he doesn't say much to describe himself. The whole passage focuses on Zion, Jerusalem, which is another name for the church, His bride. Pretty much all it says about God is that we are his and he is married to us. God wants to brag about us!

He calls us "my delight is in her", he calls us his bride. He makes us one with him so that we can proclaim his glory. He forgives us today and every day, because he just literally can't stop loving us.

We are the light in whom the Gentiles are drawn, meaning those who don't know Jesus love are drawn to us. They are drawn to us every time we live our lives just a little differently than others. They are drawn to us when we share a peace and hope and love that is a little different than others.

Did you ever see that woman, hopefully your wife for you married men out there. She is looking real fine and dressed up and she's got the hair, and dress, and the jewelry, and you can't say anything except wow, you look are looking so good, ouch! That is how God sees us, except the men are like looking real sharp in a tux and stuff.

The part that echoes that theme of going to the ends of the earth is verse 2 "The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory," God is talking about us. We as the church do shine Christ's righteousness and glory to the ends of the earth. We both reach out and draw in whole nations and powerful kings to ourselves.

Queen Esther from the Bible was made queen for a couple of reasons. First, she replaced queen Vashti, who wasn't very desirable. Vashti was beautiful, but on the inside she didn't seem to care about the king. She lacked the inner character to respect and honor other people outside herself. The king had the power to do what he pleased with anyone and so Vashti was relieved of her duties as queen.

That left the king to pick a new queen and what a better way than to have a glorified beauty pageant that lasted months. So secondly, she was beautiful. Esther, after becoming queen for her stunning outward appearance, was faced with the greatest challenge of her life. Her people, the Hebrews would all be executed if she didn't say something. She was the only one, who had gotten by on her beauty the whole time, that could attempt to speak to the king. But the hard part was speaking to the king out of order was supposed to be death. And after knowing the story of Vashti, at the very least she would probably be cast out of the kingdom along with the rest of God's people.

But that famous line from Mordecai is what caused her to find all the bravery to speak up. You may have come to be queen, "For such a time as this" And so she was and so she did as she freed her people, God's people. Because of her inward Character, and because of her powerful position she saved thousands.

We have the same power, through the Holy Spirit, to help people see the glory of God. We have the power to Share the Word and Share God's love just as if Christ himself was speaking or loving people.

Every once in a while I forget that not everyone else knows everything I know. Someone asked me if the Martin Luther King Jr was the founder of the Lutheran church. That is a really good question, and it's exciting to explain who the Martin Luther is that lived in the 1500's. Our church is different because we believe we are saved by grace alone, and I pray that message is on the inside now of all of you.

God placed us on earth to reach the ends of it. Don't wait around for someone else to do it. It's you, with God, that can make the difference. Who is the light of the world? Christ is, the church is, Christ Lutheran is, we are, you are. In God's eyes, it's all the same. To the ends of the earth. Amen