

Sermon #1: Know Your Position

5 of Oct. 2025

BREAKING THE ICE

- *Think of a time when you were given an important responsibility that required others to come alongside you to complete the task. How does it feel when others don't do their part?*

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

These passages show that although humanity fell into sin through Adam, God has given us redemption and a secure inheritance in Christ through His obedience and sacrifice. Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of salvation, giving us confidence and hope. Flowing out of this assurance, Jesus—who holds all authority—sends His people into the world to make disciples in the power of the Spirit. The overarching theme is “Secured by God to be sent into the world”

Security in Christ: Ephesians 1:11-14

1. What do believers receive in Christ according to vs. 11?
2. What phrase is repeated in vs. 12 and 14? What does that tell us about God's ultimate purpose?
3. What three things (vs. 13) took place in lives of the Ephesians when they believed?
4. Think about what a seal meant during the time when Paul was speaking to the Ephesians. What does it mean that we “were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit?”

God's Salvation Story: Romans 5:18-19

1. Who is “one trespass was condemnation for all men” and “the disobedience of the one man” referring to? Who is “one act of righteousness was justification” and “the obedience of the one man” referring to?
2. How do Romans 5:18–19 and Ephesians 1:11–14 together explain the human problem and God's solution in Christ?

God's Work in Christ: 1 Corinthians. 1:30, 2 Corinthians. 5:21

1. What four things does Christ make possible for us (1 Cor. 1:30)?
2. What exchange takes place in 2 Cor. 5:21?
3. Who caused that exchange to happen? Was it intentional?
4. Why is the “great exchange” in 2 Corinthians 5:21 central to our salvation?

Our Mission: Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:6-8

1. What authority does Jesus have in Mt. 28:18?
2. What mission does Jesus give His followers in Mt. 28:19-20?
3. What promise does Jesus give to those who follow the Great Commission?
4. In Acts 1:6-7, what are the apostles asking Jesus about? How does Jesus respond?
5. What does vs. 8 state we as believers will receive? What are we to do with what we receive? Where are we to do that?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus knew with absolute certainty how secure He was in the Father and the Spirit—and that security freed Him to live radically. He boldly challenged the religious leaders, entered spaces others called unclean, drew near to the outcast, and shared meals with despised tax collectors. Don't forget, He crossed from Heaven into a sin-soaked earth, where even His own people rejected Him. His obedience went beyond becoming a servant—He gave His very life. Alone, beaten, and nailed to a cross, He bore punishment for sins that were ours, not His. Jesus lived radically because His security rested fully in God. If He lived that way, confident in the Father's love, how should we live?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Since you are secure in Christ's saving work, what fears or hesitations still keep you from sharing the gospel—and how might trusting Jesus' authority and the Spirit's power help you trade fear for confidence in those conversations?
2. God acted intentionally when "He made him to be sin who knew no sin" because He loves us. Where do you see God giving you opportunities—in your home, school, workplace, or community—to be His witness? Are there any barriers or biases holding you back from reaching out? If so, surrender those to God in prayer. Then take steps in obedience.
3. How can you take a specific step this week to rely on the Holy Spirit and trust Christ to work through you as you obey the Great Commission?
4. What does living "to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:12, 14) look like for you?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15.

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.