

Tell Jesus - radio

Matthew 14:12

The text of our sermon today is Matthew 14:12. Let's read it together. "*And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus*" (Matt. 14:12).

Herod beheaded John the Baptist in prison. John's disciples came and took up his body and buried him. Then, they went and told Jesus.

I've entitled this message, "**Tell Jesus**"

I would like to make two points from this scripture:

1. **Who Jesus is.** Jesus Christ is our great God and and Savior. The Gospel is about His glorious person and successful work to save His people from their sins.
2. **Tell Him.** We are to go to Him at all times, in every trouble, and pour out our hearts to Him, believing His word, trusting in His salvation.

Our great God and Savior is Jesus Christ the Lord

First, what's in a name? A name in scripture identifies who a person is. For example, "Abraham" means "father of many nations." As his name is, so is he. He is the father of all believers throughout the many nations of the world, both Jews and Gentiles. All who believe Christ are called Abraham's children (Gal. 3:29), because the promises God gave to him, He gave to Christ and God's elect with Him. Nabal's name in 1 Sam. 25:25 told who he was. Abigail said of her husband Nabal, "*Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him*" (1 Sam. 25:25). A name therefore gathers together all that is to be understood of a person. JESUS is such a name.

In OT scripture, God names Himself. There are nine variations of the name Jehovah by which God reveals Himself in the OT. Everyone of these variants of Jehovah in scripture correspond to the truth God has revealed of His Son in the Gospel. Each name reveals our divine Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout the OT, God uses the name “Jehovah” in a context and in combination with another word to expand His revelation of Himself. In each of these names, we see who God is by what He has done to save His people. Let’s briefly catalog eight of these names. The first one occurs in Genesis, chapter 22.

1. **Jehovah-jireh**. In Gen. 22, when Isaac asked his father Abraham why there was no lamb for the burnt offering, Abraham said, “the LORD will see (to it). The word translated “will see” is “Jehovahjireh.” This name is explained in verse 8. “*My son, God will provide himself a lamb.*” This is the Gospel! Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. God the Father gave His Son. He delivered Him up to judgment for His elect (Rom. 8:32). The Lord Jesus Christ gave Himself for His people: “*the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me*” (Gal. 2:20). Christ offered Himself to God (Heb. 7:27). He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). The Gospel is that God gave His Son for His people and Christ offered Himself to God. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of God’s elect throughout the world. He is therefore “Jehovahjireh”, God will see to it; He will provide Himself, and provide Himself as the Lamb of God (Gen. 22:8,14; John 1:29; Heb. 1:3; 7:27 -- offered Himself; 9:26).
2. The second name of our Lord found in scripture is **Jehovah-nissi**, the LORD my banner, Ex. 17:15 (flag, ensign, pole). Moses upheld the rod of God. That rod represented the power of God unto salvation, that is, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Him crucified (Rom. 1:16). In Num. 21:8, the brass serpent is lifted up on a pole. The word for “pole” is nissi, banner. All who looked at the uplifted serpent on the cursed pole, lived. Jesus said this was about Himself (Jn.3:14-15). He is the One God lifted up on the cross, bearing the curse of God’s law against His people. All who look to Him, live. Paul said that “*God forbid that he should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus*

Christ” (Gal. 6:14). Our banner is what we glory in. As long as the Gospel is held up to the eyes of the believer, he triumphs over the flesh. But when we cannot see Christ as our Strength and Deliverer in the Gospel, we have no power over the flesh. Christ is therefore the LORD our banner, our boast as our curse-bearing substitute, by whom the curse for our sins is taken away and by whom we overcome our flesh in this body of death.

3. The third name by which God reveals Himself is **Jehovah-rapha**, the LORD that healeth thee. Jesus Christ is the great physician. The whole, Jesus said, do not need a physician. Only the sick do. He came to save sinners, sin-plagued, dying sinners. It is by His stripes that we are healed. God’s judgment is against His people because of their sin. Christ bore their sins in His own body. God punished Him in their place. He bore the beating my sins deserved. It is by His stripes that we are healed. God turns away from us the judgment our sins deserved because He judged us for our sins in Christ. We are therefore healed. (Ex. 15:26; Matt. 9:13; Isa. 53:5). Jesus Christ is “*the LORD that healeth thee.*”
4. The fourth name in scripture is **Jehovah-shalom**, the LORD my peace. In Judges 6:24 Gideon saw the angel of the LORD, the Lord Jesus Christ. He thought he would die for seeing His face. But the LORD said to Gideon, “*peace unto thee...*” When he knew that God accepted him, Gideon built an altar. He called the name of that altar, “*Jehovah-shalom*”. Christ is our altar. He offered Himself to God in His human nature on the altar of His divine nature. Eph. 2:14 says, “*Christ is our peace.*” Col. 1:20 says, that he “*made peace by the blood of His cross.*” Thus, Christ is our peace, because He reconciled us to God in His own death. 2 Cor. 5:21 says this. “*He hath made Him sin, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him*” (2 Cor. 5:21). Thus, Christ has made peace in Himself, in His offering of Himself to God for His people. His offering made satisfaction to God’s justice. Therefore, He reconciled His people to God by His sin-atoning death, which satisfied God in justice and removed their sins in full remission and forgiveness (Dan. 9:24; Rom. 3:24; Heb. 9:22; 10:17-18).
5. The fifth name in scripture is **Jehovah-raah**, the LORD my Shepherd. Ps. 23:1 says “*the LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want.*” Jesus applied this to

Himself in John 10:11,14,16. *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep”* (John 10:11). *“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine”* (John 10:14). *“Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I **must** bring, and they **shall** hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd”* (John 10:16). In v11, Jesus said that He is the good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep. The sheep are God’s elect, the Church. We see this in v14 and v16. In v14, Jesus said that He knows His sheep and His sheep know Him. Christ first knows His own. He chooses them (John 15:16). Then, His sheep come to know Him when the Gospel is preached and they believe it. Clearly, this is true only of the Church. Then, in v16, Jesus says that there is one fold and one Shepherd. He is the LORD my Shepherd. There is only one Shepherd. Christ is the one Shepherd of Psalm 23 and John 10. And there is only one fold, the body of Christ. In this body, both Jews and Gentiles make up one fold. Christ is the one Shepherd of all believers, Jews and Gentiles, throughout time.

6. The sixth name is **Jehovah-tsidkenu**, the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer. 23:6). Jesus Christ stood in the place of His people before God. In Matt. 20:28 He said of Himself, *“The Son of man came not to be ministered unto (came not to be served), but to minister (to serve), And to give His life a ransom for many.”* The word “for” in that verse means “in the place of.” Christ gave Himself in place of His people. God received His sufferings under the wrath of God with the sins of His people in their place. And in Romans 5:19, we are told that *“as by one man’s disobedience, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous”* (Rom. 5:19). Christ obeyed God for His people, in their place, as their covenant head. Just as Adam, by his sin in the garden of Eden, brought all of his children under the guilt and condemnation of sin, so Christ brought righteousness and justification on all of His people by His obedience to God in their salvation (Rom. 5:12-19). The Lord Jesus fulfilled God’s law in both punishment against sin and in obedience to God’s honor (Philip. 2:6-8). His life of obedience and suffering fulfilled the righteousness of God’s law. But He did not act for Himself in this. He stood for the “many.” As He fulfilled

their obedience for them, He delivered them from the darkness and prison of unbelief (Rom. 6:17). All who believe Him are the righteousness of God in Him. “*Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth*” (Rom. 10:4). Christ’s obedience unto death is the righteousness of His people before God. He is THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, Jehovah-tsidkenu.

7. **Jehovah-quadash** (mekoddishkem). In Ex. 31:13, God told Moses that He is “Jehovah your Sanctifier.” As our High Priest, in His prayer in John 17, Jesus said that He sanctified Himself that His people would be sanctified. Jesus Christ sanctified His people by offering Himself to God in their place and on their behalf, according to the will of God. Hebrews 2:11 says that “*He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one*” (Heb. 2:11). Christ could sanctify His people because He is our High Priest, sharing our nature, appointed to represent His people before God as their Mediator who made atonement for their sins. When He sanctified Himself to God, He sanctified all of His people with Him. He sanctified Himself in His obedience unto death. It was obedience to the will of God. By it, He made all for whom He died holy before God. By offering Himself to wash them of their sins, He set them apart for God’s glory in their salvation. “*By the which will we are sanctified by the offering of Jesus Christ once*” (Heb. 10:10).
8. **Jehovah-sabaoth**, Jehovah-sabaoth means Jehovah of hosts, the LORD of elect angels and elect men, heaven’s armies, heaven’s host. Hannah’s husband, Elkanah, went to worship Jehovah of hosts in 1 Sam. 1:3. Now, in the NT, it is made abundantly clear the Jesus Christ is the sovereign Creator and Upholder of all things (Heb. 1:2-3). All things were made by Him and for Him (Col. 1:16). He ruled heaven and had glory with His Father before coming into the world (John 6:62; 17:5). Having finished the work of our salvation by His obedience in His humiliations and sufferings and death, He is now exalted again to His Father’s throne (Rev. 3:19). Peter said in his sermon to Cornelius and his household, “*The word which sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)*” (Acts 10:36). This is a condensed summary of the Gospel: Christ made

peace; He is Lord of all. Jesus Christ is Lord of all. He is the LORD of Hosts.

Do you believe the Lord Jesus Christ is all of these to you?

- He is the Lamb of God who offered Himself to God with the sins of His people. Do you believe Him? Do you trust that in Christ's offering alone, God received full payment for all of the wrong your sins did to His justice and that He suffered for the punishment your sins deserved? Are you bowed in worship to God, persuaded that God commands you to look to Him alone as everything in salvation and as sovereign Lord over all? Do you look to the the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, as everything in your salvation, knowing that God received all from Him that He requires of you, and that if God requires anything more than what He received from Christ, you cannot give one thing and are without hope, deserving the wrath of God?
- Is Christ all of your glory and boast? When you see that He is all of your salvation, do you praise and thank the Lord Jesus Christ? That One so high and holy and almighty would be so gracious as to be made sin and a curse for you? Is Christ crucified your only boast before God? Is seeing Him as all of your salvation your only strength in battle, your only peace and joy before God?
- Do you see that by the beating Christ took under the wrath of God, has made peace for you to God and has removed the plague from God against you because of your sin? Do you see that His stripes are your healing and peace? Is Christ the Lord all of your peace? When troubles and doubts arise that would shake your confidence and instill fear, do you flee for refuge to Him who made peace by His blood?
- Do you know that if Christ is your Shepherd you have all things and have no lack before God? Is the Lord Jesus Christ your Shepherd?
- Do you see that your only righteousness before God is the obedience of Christ to His Father in His life, and His obedience under suffering even unto death? Do you see that He stood in the place of His people, and that all that He did was for their benefit and blessing? Is the Lord your only

righteousness before God and men (Ps. 71:16 - I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only!)?

- Do you see that all that makes you holy to God is the offering of Christ? Is the Lord Jesus Christ your sanctifier? (Heb. 10:10; 1 Cor. 1:30; Ex. 31:13).
- And do you see that the Lord Jesus Christ is the absolute sovereign ruler of heaven and earth, that He is gracious to whom He will be gracious, and saves by His work alone, with no consideration of anything in me or contribution from me? Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the “*LORD of hosts?*”

Now, all of these names of Jehovah are comprehended and summarized in one name. That name is JESUS. As explained in 1 Sam. 25:25, a name in scripture identifies who a person is. Just so, **as His name is, so is He; Jesus is His name, for He accomplished full and complete salvation for His people; He saved His people from their sins** (1 Pet. 2:24; Matt. 1:21; John 19:30). God Himself defines His name for us. Matthew 1:21 says, “*His name shall be called, JESUS, for He shall save His people from their sins*” (Matt. 1:21)!

The name of Jesus is at once the name of highest honor, and the name of greatest endearment to every believer. Psalm 9:10 says, “*They that know Thy name, shall put their trust in Thee*” (Ps. 9:10). If you know Jesus Christ as He is revealed in the Gospel, as **the One who made satisfaction to God for the sins of His people** (Rom. 3:25), **who removed their sins from them by full remission** of their debt and with **full forgiveness from God based on what He finds in His Son alone** (Heb. 10:17-18); and **if you believe that you can only be saved if you are saved by Him alone, with no help from yourself or any other, then you will put your trust in Him.** In the New Covenant, God promised that all of His people would “*know the Lord.*” How do they all know the Lord? They know Him in the Lord Jesus Christ! They all hear His voice. His voice is the truth of the Gospel revealed by God as true to me. **If you are Christ’s sheep, you will hear and believe the Gospel. If I know the Lord Jesus Christ according to the truth of the Gospel, then I know Him as the One who saved me from my sins!** “*They shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for*

*all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 **For** I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb. 8:11-12). Do you see that this is **the issue**? **What does God think of His Son? What did God receive from His Son? Is God satisfied with His Son?** Do we think what God thinks about Christ? Do we think the same thing as He does? If we do, then we believe the record God gave of His Son (1 John 5:10). If not, then we have not yet believed the truth.*

The Gospel is that God has made known His glory in the salvation of His people in the obedience unto death of His Son. It is how God rescued His people from their fall in willful rebellion. That He saved them in spite of their unbelief and lawlessness and helplessness in these. That He laid all of the work and cost for their salvation on Himself in Christ. That He received from Christ full compensation and honor to His righteous law. The Gospel is that sinners, who are only deserving of God’s wrath, are saved by Christ alone. The Gospel is about the grace of God, which does all to have His people, and never looks for one thing from them, but gives all to them because He willed to do so in grace, and because on the ground of Christ’s obedience, it magnifies His justice and mercy and all of His perfections to the highest possible extent. In Christ crucified we see the glory of God (Gal. 6:14; 2 Cor. 4:6; Heb. 1:3)!

Now, Matt. 14:12 says that John the Baptist’s disciples went and told Jesus. **They went to Him who is Lord of all** (Acts 10:36), who purged all of the sins of all of God’s elect, and who did so by Himself (Heb. 1:3). They went to Jesus, the One who alone **saves His people** from their sins (Matt. 1:21). And what did they do? **They told Him all** that had happened.

When you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you come to Him (John 6:35). Believing Christ is coming to Christ. These disciples of John came to Jesus. They had heard John tell them who Jesus is and what He came to do. Now they went to Him and told Him all. About Jesus, John the Baptist said:

- He is Son of God. He is from heaven. He is above all. God the Father has put all things into His hand (Jn. 3:31-35).

- He is Christ, the Bridegroom. He has the Bride, the Church, the people of God (Jn. 3:28-29). He is Creator and husband of God's people.
- He is the Lamb of God. He takes away the sins of God's Elect throughout the whole world, both Jews and Gentiles.
- He **must** increase. "*The LORD alone shall be exalted in that day*" (Isa. 2:11,17).
- Of himself, John said, "*I must decrease.*" John was the greatest prophet, yet it must be Christ who increases, while he must decrease. John was imprisoned. Now he is martyred for Christ's sake. He decreased in life and finally in death. But this was John's teaching and delight. Christ must increase in the eyes of His people.

John's mission was therefore perfected when his disciples came to Jesus. They did what he taught them. They learned of Christ and now they followed Him. John died. He decreased. Christ, the Lamb of God, accomplished salvation of His people. He increased. He is the King of glory. What a joy John had for this disciples in this! How they must have loved John for sending them to Christ in his last act of martyrdom!

What do we tell Jesus?

There is no better advice that a preacher can give than what these disciples did. **Go to Jesus. Tell Him!** Tell all that you are not. Ask Him to show you all that He is. "*Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved*" (Ps. 55:22). What do we tell Him?

- **We tell Him all of our anxious concerns.** "*6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*" (Philippians. 4:6-7)
- **We tell Him all of our fears, our sorrows, our needs.** "*As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at*

noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice” (Psalms 55:16-17).

- **We tell Him about all of our enemies** and our weakness against them. We tell Him that we don't know what to do. We we look to Him and tell Him that our eyes are upon Him, waiting for His salvation. In 2 Chr. 20:12, Jehoshaphat prayed to God against their enemies: *“O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee”* (2 Chr. 20:12). And we tell Him of His glorious triumphs that He has given and promised in the Gospel. *“Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you”* (2 Chr. 20:17).
- **We tell Him that our sins prevail against us.** *“Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away”* (Ps. 65:3). We tell Him that there is no God like Him, who has cast our sins into the depths of the sea of His judgment. *“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy. 19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea”* (Micah 7:18-19). We hear Him tell how He has accomplished our warfare over our sin. *“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins”* (Isa. 40:2). We thank Him that He has delivered us from the dominion of our own unbelief. *“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you”* (Rom. 6:17). We tell Him that our sinful flesh, what we are in ourselves, is nothing but sin, but that we look to Him as all of our salvation. *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin”* (Rom. 7:24-25).

- We tell Him that we destroyed ourselves by our sin, but that our only help is in Him. *“O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help”* (Hosea 13:9).
- We tell Him what He has told us to do and to say in coming to Him *“1 O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. 2 Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously”* (Hosea 14:1-2).

In all of these things, we tell the Lord Jesus Christ what He has told us in the Gospel. In short, we tell Christ all. We cast every burden upon Him. And in so doing, we are saved. *“Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me”* (Psalm 50:15).

May God bring us to come to Jesus Christ as He is revealed in the Gospel, and in coming, tell Him all that we are not, and tell Him all that He says that He is to us, and in so telling, trust Him and find salvation and perfect peace!