

“You Are God’s Special Child”

Psalm 139: 1 – 34; John 14:15 – 21; Mark 3: 13 – 19; **Matthew 10: 1 – 20 (Sermon)**

We read about Thaddaeus in our lesson from Matthew and Mark.

I would guess that most of you have not heard of Thaddaeus or knew Thaddaeus’ name.

Thaddeus had several names in The Bible: He is called *“Lebbaeus”* in Matthew 10:3 in The King James Version. He is called *“Judas brother of James”* in Luke 6:16. He is called *“Judas, not Iscariot”* in John 14:22. And he is called *“Thaddeus”* in Mark 3:18.

I chose Thaddaeus because we do not know much about Thaddaeus.

I have never heard a sermon on Thaddaeus.

The Bible does not record any of Thaddaeus’ accomplishments.

But we do know that Thaddaeus was a very special person because Jesus chose Thaddaeus to be one of The Twelve Disciples.

All of the Gospel writers tell us that *“the multitudes followed Jesus”* and that Jesus had many disciples.

But Jesus only chose twelve to be His closest disciples and to carry on His ministry after Jesus ascended into heaven.

And Thaddaeus was one of The Twelve.

The Bible does not mention that Thaddeus preach a sermon.

You will not read about Thaddaeus healing some one who was sick.

You will not read that Thaddaeus ever cast out a demon.

But Thaddeus probably did all of these things.

The reason we believe that Thaddaeus did all of these things is based on Mark 6:7 which says; *“And he {Jesus} called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;*

And in Mark 6:12 -13 *“And they went out, and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.”*

Thaddeus may not have been a Peter, a James, a John or even an Andrew.

Thaddaeus may not have penned a gospel or written an epistle.

You see Jesus did not call Thaddeus to be a Peter, a James, a John, or an Andrew.

Thaddaeus was a very special person because Jesus had a different plan for Thaddeus.

So what does Thaddaeus' story have to do with us today?

I chose Thaddaeus because we are all like Thaddaeus.

We should never think that we are not important or that we are not special people because most people do not know our name.

It is true that we all like for people to know our name but just because most people do not know your name it does not mean that you are not important or you are not special because Jesus knows your name and that is what is really important.

You see just like Jesus called Thaddaeus to be His disciple Jesus has called you to be His disciple.

And that makes you special and important. In John 10:3 we read; ***“He (Jesus) calls His sheep by name and He leads them out”***.

In Philippians 4:3 we read that the names of Jesus' co-workers are written in The Book of Life.

Then in Revelation 3:5 we read where Jesus said; ***“I will never blot out the name of that person from the Book of Life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and His angels.”***

Jesus knows you by name and that makes you special and important.

The world may not know your name but Jesus knows your name and that is what is important.

Be proud of who you are because God made you the way you are.

Psalm 139:13 - 16 tells us ***“For you (God) created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”***

God chose what you should look like, the talents to give you, and what abilities to give to you.

You see God designed each one of us as unique individuals.

There has never been another person just like you nor will there ever be another person that is exactly like you.

So we should be content with the way The Lord has made us with the talents, the gifts, and the opportunities The Lord has given us.

We should not try to be someone else.

Be yourself you are not someone else!

You are a very special person because God designed you just like you are.

You are ***“fearfully and wonderfully made.”*** (Psalm 139:13)

You are a very special person because God loves you.

1st John 4:9 – 11 says; ***“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”***

You are a very special person because Jesus loves you.

Ephesians 5:1-2 says; ***“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”.***

And Ephesians 5:25 tells us that Jesus loves The Church and Jesus gave His life for the church to make her holy.

You are a very special person because God created you with a specific plan for your life.

God put you on this earth at this specific place and at this specific time in history to do a specific job for Him.

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us; ***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”.***

In our lesson from Matthew we read that Jesus sent Thaddaeus and the other Apostles out to do a specific job for Him.

And Jesus sends each one of us out into the world to do specific jobs for Him.

The child that you are teaching in Children’s Church, SMORES or Sunday School may become the next Billy Graham, or a pastor, or the President of The United States.

To me one of the most important jobs in the church is being a Greeter.

Greeters are the first people a visitor sees when they come to church.

If they do not receive a warm welcome they will not feel welcome and they probably will not come back.

Hebrews 13:2 warns us; ***“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”***

You can be the owner of a multi-million dollar corporation and be unsuccessful in God’s eyes **or** you can be the janitor of that same company and be very successful if you are where God wants you to be and if you are faithfully serving The Lord in that position.

Remember whatever service or task that Jesus has chosen for you to do, it is an honor to be chosen to serve.

Do not ever think that your service or your place of service is insignificant.

Remember you have been chosen by The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords to accomplish something for Him!

Sadly today many people measure the success of a church by how big their building is, how large their budget is and / or how many people attend worship there on Sunday morning.

But The Lord looks at a church's faithfulness to His word, obedience to His commandments, and if that church is carrying on the ministry He started while He was on earth.

We should not try to be anything but what God is calling us to be.

We should not be envious of other people's talents or the opportunities other people have been given.

Nor should we should be envious of the success other people have experienced.

Remember Jesus had a different plan for Thaddeus.

Just like Jesus sent Thaddeus out with a specific job Jesus has called each one of us to do a specific job for Him.

Thaddeus was one of The Twelve disciples and in John 20:22 we read that Jesus breathed on The 12 and said ***"Receive The Holy Spirit"***.

Just like Thaddeus received The Holy Spirit Jesus has given you the gift of The Holy Spirit.

In John 14:15 Jesus said; ***"If you love me keep my commands. And I will ask The Father and He will give you another advocate to help you and to be with you forever- The Spirit of truth."***

And Jesus fulfilled that promise of The Indwelling Holy Spirit to all of His disciples on that first Pentecost.

Genesis 1:27 tells us that ***"God created mankind in His own image."***

One of the benefits of being created in the image of God was that we can enjoy fellowship with our creator God.

Jesus invites us to invite Him into our life so we can enjoy fellowship with Jesus each and every day (Revelation 3:20)

Jesus wants to be a part of your daily life.

Just as Jesus called Thaddeus into fellowship Jesus has called you into fellowship with Him.

1st Corinthians 1:9 ***"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus"***

Just like Jesus called Thaddeus to represent Him Jesus has called you to represent Him.

1st Peter 2:9 -10 says; ***“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God”***

2nd Corinthians 5:20 tells us as Jesus ‘disciple that ***“we are Christ’s ambassador”***.

And Acts 1:8 is a command to every Christian; ***“you shall be my witnesses.”***

People may not know about your service or recognize your but Jesus knows about your service and Jesus will reward your service if your service is done in His name.

In fact you may never get the pat on the back that you think you deserve.

People may never see all that you do, they may not see the long hours and late nights, they may not know the financial sacrifices that you have made and they may not know of the emotional struggles that you have endured.

But remember there are rewards for all those people who are faithful wherever God has placed them.

Colossians 3:23 -24 says; ***“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving”***.

The Lord needs and uses Christian health care workers, Christian teachers, Christian truck drivers, etc.

Whatever you do it with all of your heart do you secular job as if you are serving The Lord.

God will reward your faithfulness!

Don’t waste your time waiting and hoping for a larger opportunity or more prestigious position which may never come.

But faithfully handle the little things that you do for The Lord.

Remember as a Christian you have an eternal reward.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19 – 20)

The Lord may have placed you as the teacher to have an impact on those children.

The Lord may place you in a business to reach your coworkers.

The Lord may place you as a parent or a grandparent of that child to have an eternal impact on them.

The Lord may place you in an apartment building so you can tell a neighbor about Jesus Christ.

Whatever your situation is remember Jesus chose you to serve Him in that place and in that capacity.

As Christians we all have been called to represent The Lord and to serve The Lord wherever He puts us.

The question is; *“will you treasure your calling or will you despise your calling”*.

“Are you content with who you are or are you trying to look like someone else or to be someone else”.

You see if you are envious of another person’s talents, looks, and / or their position you will become bitter and you will not be serving The Lord with joy.

Galatians 5:13 tells us *“serve one another humbly in love”*.

And 1st Peter 4:10 says; *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

The world may think you are a no body and other people think that the work you do is menial.

But we should never forget we are all God’s special child and we all have been chosen to serve The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords.

God’s word to us this morning challenges each of us to be proud of who we are, God’s special child.

And we all are to be content with the job and the place The Lord has called us to serve Him.

AMEN