

Title: “You Are a Messiah”

Intro:

“You are a Messiah.” That is the central topic of my message I want to proclaim this morning. “You are a Messiah.” I mean every single person in this St. A’s holy sanctuary; “You are a Messiah.” That is the message for you and for me today. We will see if I can have that message get across to you for the next 15 minutes. I will try my best.

And toward that purpose, I want to begin my message with this question if you don’t mind: Friends of St. A’s, do you recall the moment or moments of extreme excitement when you began a new chapter of life, a new project or a new job, or when you met a really lovely person who would change your whole life thereafter? Do you recall those moments?

- There is someone I know who proposed to his future wife about 13 years ago, after facing many obstacles and objections. Finally, when he popped the question and she said yes; his heart almost exploded; excitement, new life, and new hope! A new chapter of life!
- And there is someone I know who had almost seven years of try for conception, and finally 20 hours of labor in the hospital before the birth of her first baby girl. And when the girl finally came out and when the mother held the girl in her chest! Excitement, new life, and new hope!
- And I know somebody who applied to about 25 jobs around the country and got many rejection letters saying, “You are such a wonderful candidate for this position, but . . . (you know what I’m talking about).” Then, finally, when he got a phone call from the 26th job application site with somebody on the other end of the

line saying, “Congratulations, Dr. Somebody, we’re so pleased to extend our job offer to you. Please come to Oregon and join us.” Whew; excitement, new life, and new hope!

Again, my friends of St. A’s have you ever had those kinds of moments in your life? Excitement, new life, and new hope! I’m sure you have; you did; or you might be having those moments now right (thanks be to God!)

- Then, I’m sure you’d understand really well what’s going on in the Gospel message we read this morning. The want-be disciples, the fishermen, from Galilee (those country boys!), they are now so excited, fascinated, and even enchanted, with new hope, new vision for life, and potentially even with hope for the whole world.
- Then, the question is why? How come they are so fascinated and excited? Because verse 41; they have just met the Messiah they have waited for such a long time. The true king of the kings, the healer of the wounded world, the freedom-giver of the oppressed, the feeder of the hungry and poor. The Messiah, the Christ, they have just met . . . !

Friends, this excitement and welcome of the Messiah really made sense for them; at least in three ways—politically, spiritually, and economically.

- In the time of Jesus, the whole nation of Israel was under the Roman-imperial oppression. People were being persecuted by the conquerors; the tax system was corrupt; and even the political parties among Jews were divided, not making any progress for the nation’s unity. That was their political situation; hopeless, outrageous; and corruption.
- Spiritually, the temple priests—the core religious performers--were being spiritual puppets of the Roman governors for their

own political and economic gains. Do we not remember Jesus in the Gospels overturning the tables of money changers (right there!) in the holy temple that Jesus calls my father's House of Prayer; spiritually that much dried out and mammonistic spirituality prevailing; well, the Spirit of God was not there with them!

- Economically, the countryside was so devastated; top 1% or 5% was occupying everything, and the rest of the population was starving under the extreme poverty line. So, it is no wonder that Jesus fed the five thousand, and the four thousand, in the field, when he was preaching.
- In sum, politically, spiritually, and economically, the people of Israel—they needed the Messiah. The true king of the kings, the healer of the world, the freedom-giver of the oppressed, the feeder of the hungry and poor.

Then finally, this Jesus, the Messiah, the King of the Kings, the feeder of the hungry, finally comes! After waiting and waiting, for a long time, and even facing countless false Messiahs and false prophets for hundreds of years; finally, this Jesus comes. The Messiah finds his own people, saying "Come, follow me! I will give you a taste of God's kingdom." Come, follow me (do my will)! God's kingdom come already! Come and see, and taste the goodness of the Lord! Be joyful, get excited! Join the movement!

So, the want-be disciples even shouted to everybody they could find, verse 46, "Come and see this Jesus. We've found the Messiah finally; who is Immanuel; God with us; God will liberate, God will restore, and God will take care of this hungry and broken world; Come and see!" Excitement, fascination, joy, and justice finally established!

Now, the crucial question for us now is this; Where is this Messiah for us today? The disciples had their own Messiah—physical, historical, and

blood-and-flesh Jesus in the 1st century. Then, do we not need this Messiah too? Do we not need this same Messiah who, will liberate, restore, and who will take care of this hungry and broken world? Where is this Messiah for us? Where is him or her—the physical, historical, blood-and-flesh Messiah?

- My short answer for you and for me this morning is this (and the central topic of my message as said at the beginning):
- My friends of St.'s, the physical, historical, blood-and-flesh Messiah or Messiah(s) (plural) is here in this holy sanctuary!
- Then, who is that Messiah? We may ask.
- Then, I'm confident enough to tell you that none other than, you and me are the Messiahs for this world. Why is that? How dare I could say that?
- Because(!) we have the bread and wine in this room; Jesus told us, When we share this bread and wine, he will be with us; he will become part of us, and vice versa; we will be with him and we will become part of him. In other words, we will be synced with Jesus (flesh and blood!); we're being synced (potentially, digitally-synced!) with the king of the kings, the savior-healer of the world, and the freedom-giver, and the feeder of the hungry; we're being synced with Jesus; which means we begin to share his Kingly identity, his savior-healer identity, his freedom-giver and feeder identity; which means we're called to save, we're called heal, we're called set free, and we're called to feed this broken world; which means, finally, you and I—we are confident enough to say we're the Messiahs for this world, acting in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So, my friends, please know that you are a Messiah, a true Messiah, for this world. Don't get me wrong; I'm not doing a lip service. Truly and

practically and categorically, you are a Messiah saving and healing, setting free, and feeding this world; each and all of you, true Messiahs.

- So, on this little paper, I've got some of your names. When I call out your name, please don't get surprised. I believe I've got your permission already. So, here it is!
- Cavin Sanderson-Doughty, "You are a Messiah."
- Caroline Sanderson-Doughty, "You are a Messiah."
- Hannah Feely, "You are a Messiah."
- _____
- _____
- _____

Amen. Amen.

- Friends, let us realize we are Messiahs for this world. I believe that's what people expect from us Christians in this world; true kingly servants and true feeders of this world.
- So, as we have done for many years already here in Oregon and around the world, let us continue our Messiah tasks this new year 2022 as well.
- And the people around us—near and far—will come and see not only the real Messiahs of this world but also the true Kingdom of God established here on earth as it is in heaven.
- Friends, again, please know, "You are a Messiah." "You are a Messiah." And all that begins with this Table. Amen.