



St. Michael's Church  
CHARLESTON, SC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2107

ROMANS 10:5-15  
MATTHEW 10: 27-33

PREACHER: THE REV. AL ZADIG, JR.

HELP US LORD TO BE SO CONNECTED TO YOU THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE SERVANTS OF OTHERS.

TAKE OUR LIPS AND SPEAK THROUGH THEM,  
OUR MINDS AND THINK THROUGH THEM,  
AND TAKE OUR HEARTS, AND SET THEM ON FIRE

+++++

Let me begin very transparently with you and pose an interesting dilemma.

As a married Anglican Priest, I've always wondered how Roman Catholic clergy carry on their ministries without being married!

I say that because my wife has been the most magnificent pillar of my ministry, in such a way that I couldn't imagine doing ministry without her. We realize on this All Saints' Sunday that Saints are not just those who have died on gone on,

But the Saints are often the one's living right next to you!

A Saint defined remember is just any forgiven sinner!

Now, you may not know this, but nearly every sermon I've ever preached to you, I've preached to my wife first...

*which means if there was a sermon you couldn't make sense of, blame her...*

- she is my quality control agent.
- She is an encourager,
- A truth teller and can call out my mistakes, and inadequacies
- She is a prayer warrior

This southern Converse College Connie:

- Even talked down the Bishop of Washington and gave him a what for when he was out of line...

Most importantly as a solid rock,

Elizabeth loves the Lord and she loves this church.

She gave me my very first leather bound Prayer Book/Hymnal back in 1994..

And in it, she quotes Jesus in Matthew 10:27:

- What I tell you in the dark
  - Speak in the daylight
- What I whisper in your ear
  - Proclaim from the housetops...

+++++

What Jesus meant through these words is that the Christian life before anything...

is listening,

Listening in that secret place with Jesus, Bible open...

realizing no one can speak for Christ unless they have first listened TO Christ..

As one theologian writes:

- How can I teach what I haven't learned,
- How can I warm the cold hearts of others when I am shivering myself?
- What I tell you in the dark
  - Speak in the daylight

It works like this,

Jesus whispering in your ear in the wee hours... YOU ARE LOVED! YOU ARE FORGIVEN..

Which then fuels your words and actions in the daytime!

**My friends, whether we wear the collar or not, all Christians are called to listen with reverence to Christ through His Word and then speak and live that out with courage.**

+++++

And I ask you this morning...

Are you spending enough time in the dark with Jesus...

To light up the world with his Word?

+++++

Are you living your day out of your own strength

or

From the overflow of that time spent with Jesus?

+++

Let me give you an image of this...

Imagine the words of Jesus we receive in the dark, those words we read from Scripture... words of

- Comfort, challenge and wisdom...

Pretend those words are in Charleston..

+++++

Now, imagine the words we proclaim **from** what's whispered in our ear, the shouting from the rooftops part...

Imagine that part is Mt. Pleasant..

- One the one side Words given to Us
- On the other...our shouting them, from the housetop

Now imagine a bridge between them...

**That bridge between is this word...**

**INTEGRITY.**

Faithfully finding our fuel in Jesus,  
and living that with our lips and lives to a world that doesn't know it!

Integrity defines a rhythm of life..

- Being the same back stage as we are on stage..
- It's being the same in the **S**anctuary
  - as we are in **S**chool
- It's being the same at **H**oly Communion
  - as we are at **H**ome
- It's being the same in our **P**ew
  - as we are at a **P**arty

- It's living consistently even when no one is looking

Integrity therefore means having no compartments in our lives where Jesus isn't..

This life on the bridge is living the life of Gospel integrity.

And Scripture is full of passages on Integrity,

Most beautifully Romans Chapter 10 that our Life Groups will be studying this week,

Where Paul fills with full color the charge of Jesus in Matthew 10 to hear and then speak.

Compare Matthew 10:

- What you hear whispered in the dark,
- proclaim from the housetops..

With Romans 10..

- Believe in your heart that Jesus was raised from the dead..
- Confess with your Mouth Jesus is Lord.

Paul in writing these words is living on that bridge of integrity.

Paul knew that the Jews were trying to find their salvation through the law..

Paul's purpose in Romans 10 is to help them find their salvation in Jesus...

It's why Paul says...

**believe in your heart** that Jesus was raised from the dead..

It's a heart thing!

This **Believing in your heart** doesn't just mean intellectually **agreeing** that Jesus was raised,

**after all even Satan believes that..**

**Satan is a believer in Jesus..**

The difference between Satan believing and our believing is this:

**Believe in your heart** means believing from the depths of our soul:

1. That God through Jesus Christ is **for us!**
2. He has a hope and a future **for us!**
3. Belief therefore is more than an intellectual agreement,
4. It is the conviction--
5. the confidence

- that God has closed ranks **with you**,
- that Jesus has **saved you** for eternity
- that the Holy Spirit is in the process of making **you new!**

This side of the bridge means being so confident of God's power and love that:

- no fear of worldly loss
- nor greed for worldly gain
- will lure us to disobey his will.

On this All Saints Sunday, that's the difference between Satan and the Saints, both believe,

- but only one believes that God is for us,
- Only one believes that Jesus is not just a martyr but is victor!
- Only one believes that Jesus is not just a long ago Saint, but a living presence today!

My friends perhaps you're here this morning and your faith is an intellectual one only,

You believe but there's no expectation that Jesus wants to change your life..

Or that you can know Him personally!

Today Jesus is saying invite me deeper into your heart in a way that changes your tomorrow.

+++++

Which leads to the other side of the bridge, Confess with our mouth Jesus is Lord.

The word confess here doesn't mean apologize, it means to state that belief with conviction and **live it out**.

Confess with our lips is the call to shout it out!

Yet we can't shout out something we have only agreed to,

we shout out what we have confidence in!

For example..

It's another Carolina...

First Down!

So this bridge of Integrity is all about conviction,

- conviction in here,

- to then live and take out there!

Which is why Paul finishes this section saying there is nothing more beautiful when people walk that bridge,

- not only with their lips
  - but with their lives
- not only with their lives
  - but with their lips!

So confessing Christ is as truly indispensable as believing in Jesus,

An act of Gospel integrity. Failure to do so is hypocrisy.

There has to be an outward display of our inward conviction,

Kind of like water in Baptism, there has to be that outward sign of the inward grace.

The two belong together and are as inseparable as two sides of a coin.

++++

It is this very bridge after all that defines Jesus.

John 1: In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God and Jesus was God...

With the mission to be **THAT BRIDGE** to a fallen and lost Humanity,

Matthew 15: Jesus confessing... I have come for the lost sheep!

Jesus is that bridge, connecting God the Father with a lost humanity..the only provision for our sin...

Therefore:

Jesus is not only the icon of integrity,

Jesus is integrity  
He defines integrity.

+++++

Here's how this works on an earthly plane...

- Believing in our heart Jesus is Lord,
  - leads to realizing **AS** He is my center
  - I desire to seek Him vertically before anything else in my life..

- doing so is integrity..

+++++

- Believing in our heart Jesus is Lord,
  - leads to realizing **AS** Jesus forgave
  - I desire to confessionally walk that bridge by forgiving others even myself,
  - doing so is integrity..

+++++

- Believing in our heart Jesus is Lord
  - leads to realizing **AS** Jesus told others,
  - I desire to confessionally walk that bridge by inviting and telling others..
  - Doing so is integrity

+++++

- Believing in our heart Jesus is Lord
  - leads to realizing **AS** Jesus invented the sacrament of marriage
  - I desire to confessionally walk that bridge by investing in my marriage
  - Doing so is integrity

+++++

- Believing in our heart Jesus is Lord
  - leads to realizing **AS** Jesus gave Himself to be that bridge...
  - I desire to
    - confessionally walk that bridge
    - by giving of myself,
    - dying to self
    - giving financially what I've been given

- Doing so is integrity

+++++

My friends, none of this is possible without the Holy Spirit to convict our hearts.

If we only have an intellectual agreement with Jesus, if we're not hearing his voice..

We end up on a very different bridge..

- We begin living recklessly
- Casting off restraints from things we know are wrong
- We begin to hoard and keep what isn't ours
- We turn inward
- Fearful
- and just plain grumpy!

What you hear whispered from the Lord, proclaim from the Housetops... walk that bridge as Jesus did.

If there is no shouting to the world,

- part of us in here...dies.

+++++

Here's some great news.

...All Saints Sunday is a reminder St. Michaelites we're all on that bridge together!

As the family of God, fellow saints, we're in it together!

1 John 1: "As we walk in the light, as Jesus is in the light,

we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin!"

We come to the feast through:

- Communion
- Life groups,
- Holy City Connects
- Youth Group
- To break bread and walk that bridge of
- 
- INTEGRITY TOGETHER!

Do you remember the incredible scene on the Ravenel bridge days after the Mother Emanuel tragedy?

15,000 thousand people form a line 2 miles long packing that bridge while holding hands forming a unity chain.

That's what I'm talking about, that's St. Michael's!

We're on the bridge OF INTEGRITY together.

- What I whisper in your ear
  - Proclaim from the housetops...
  - together

+++++

My friends, I began transparently with you, let me end the same way.

This bridge between belief and living that belief has never been more challenging than right now.

Each day as I sit at my office desk, my eyes raise up to our church building..

Surrounded in scaffolding...It feels like a re-birthing... that our church building is being born anew, but I wonder...for whom?

This week begins a mediation that could, could very well determine who our church belongs to:

- The national episcopal church
- or the Anglican Church of North America, it's that simple.

If this church goes to the national episcopal church

a false gospel will be preached from this pulpit where faithful Gospel preaching has been carried out for 266 years...

The false gospel of the day is taking what's whispered and twisting it.

Re-writing scripture to fit my situation, even our culture..

Verses Ministering here with integrity

Which means allowing Scripture **TO RE-WRITE US**,

so that through Jesus **WE** with integrity would help re-write and transform the world!

This week could, change everything.

+++++

Now, I've heard some say Al, I want to come to church for peace only and not conflict-

I'm stepping off that bridge in my worship life and giving until its all over.

To those voices I say, don't let Satan win..

Our desire for comfort can never be stronger than his commandments.

The church has always been that place of spiritual warfare why?

Because we are part of the rescue mission of Jesus as bridge between God and humanity..

Especially here on the '4' corners!

The church has always been under persecution from within and beyond.

Our window above our altar is proof of that!  
Integrity means faithfully walking that bridge

based on the undiluted word of Jesus Christ  
Crucified,

with a heart that says Lord change me so I can help change the world.

Which means if we believe in our secret place that Jesus is:

- The Way
- The Truth
- And the Life.
- And there's no plan B...

We will preach and teach here until we can't anymore..

- We will pray in this church as Saints
- We will send our Saints to India tomorrow on mission
- We will give and tithe to this church as a mission station...
- We will stick together as Saints
- Until we can't anymore.

That's living a life of Gospel Integrity even when

- the winds are blowing strong against that bridge
- even when you can't see the sides of the bridge
- it's saying Lord:
  - our confidence in you from that darkened place
  - is greater than the confidence we place in ourselves...
- What I whisper in your ear
  - Proclaim from the housetops...

We're on the bridge OF GOSPEL INTERGRITY together.

