

SERMON NOTES - In His Name - Mandate

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

Using these notes and this message

There are 3 ways to watch or listen to this message, and various ways to use it:

Access to the Message	Using the Message
The full video message (around 26 minutes) can be watched on our website .	Play the Video OR Preach it Yourself → Small Group Discussion In larger settings. See guidance notes below .
A shorter version (7-11 minutes) with small group discussion questions can also be found on our website.	In small groups. See Notes below .
An audio podcast - on our app , soundcloud , or itunes	Personal listening

Below you will find the following notes ...

[1 - A summary of this talk, and various ways and Ideas for how to use the themes](#)

[2 - How to Preach a Sunday Sermon](#)

[3 - How to lead a Small Group](#)

[4 - Small Group Bible Study Questions and Guidelines for this message](#)

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1 - A summary of this talk, and various ways and Ideas for how to use the themes

Due to the nature of the video messages, a sermon preached on video/TV generally contains much more information than should be presented when preaching “live”.

Video messages also don't include as many personal stories and anecdotes as would be shared in a personal sermon.

For this reason, when preaching this message “live”, it is advisable for you to pick one or two of the main themes, ideas, or points below, and focus on them, adding your own stories and experiences, and your own personality.

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus has given us a Mandate as to how to use His authority and name, and we must know and follow that Mandate. Great power and confidence results.

THE MAIN THEMES & SUB IDEAS EACH OF WHICH COULD BE DEVELOPED INTO A SERMON ON ITS OWN

You could use one or more of the following themes and ideas and craft a whole sermon out of any of these:

1. Asking and acting “in Jesus' name” is important (John 14:13-14, 16:23-24)
 - Gathering in his name means he is there (Matthew 18:20)

- Everything we do should be in his name (Colossians 3:17)
 - Miracles happen when we pray in his name (Mark 16:17-18)
2. Being in Jesus' name means operating under his authority and mandate
 - It's not about doing whatever we want, but following his blueprint and instructions
 - Only those who do the will of the Father will enter heaven (Matthew 7:21-23)
 - We are his friends if we do what he commands (John 15:14)
 3. God reveals his character and how we interact with him through his names
 - Yahweh in the OT (Exodus 3:14), with added descriptors (e.g. Yahweh Rapha - healer)
 - The name of the Lord is a strong tower (Proverbs 18:10)
 - Jesus used "I Am" statements to reveal aspects of his nature and mandate
 4. The Good Shepherd mandate (John 10:1-18)
 - Jesus is the door and the good shepherd
 - We enter through him, hear his voice, and follow his lead to abundant life
 - The mandate starts with an attitude of submission to his will
 5. The Bread of Life mandate (John 6:32-35, 47-51, 63)
 - Jesus is the spiritual bread we need, not just physical bread (Deuteronomy 8:3)
 - We must feed on his Word daily to have life
 - His words are spirit and life, as is remembering his sacrifice
 6. The Light of the World mandate (John 8:12, 9:4-5, Matthew 5:14-16)
 - Jesus is the light that gives hope, direction and exposes darkness
 - We are called to shine his light and not hide it
 - This is tied to the Great Commission of reaching the world
 7. The Great Commission is the mandate Jesus gave the church (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - Involves going, making disciples of all nations, baptising and teaching them
 - Based on Jesus' authority and promises his presence as we obey
 - Our mission shifts to align with his mandate when we follow him
 8. How to know and follow God's mandate (Romans 12:1-2)
 - Present ourselves as living sacrifices, surrendered to God's will
 - Renew our minds with God's Word to be transformed
 - Then we can prove/demonstrate his good, pleasing and perfect will
 - Requires bold faith to step out and obey, knowing God's promises are "Yes" in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BASED ON THIS TALK

1. Why do you think Jesus placed such a strong emphasis on asking and doing things in his name? What does it mean to you to operate "in Jesus' name"?
2. How does understanding the names of God (e.g. Yahweh Rapha, Good Shepherd, Bread of Life, Light of the World) impact your relationship with him and your understanding of his mandate for your life?
3. What are some practical ways we can demonstrate an attitude of submission to God's will in our daily lives? How can we discern his will?
4. In what ways can we make sure we are regularly feeding on God's Word and allowing it to transform our minds and lives?
5. As "the light of the world," how can we effectively shine Christ's light in the world around us without hiding it? What might this look like in our spheres of influence?
6. How do you understand the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20? What role do you think you play in fulfilling this mandate?
7. Share an experience where you had to exercise bold faith to obey what you believed God was calling you to do. What challenges did you face and what did you learn through the process?

2 - How to Preach a Sunday Sermon

The SUNDAY sermon is normally not an in depth teaching time (this is usually done in other times and settings). Usually the Sunday Sermon achieves 3 main goals:

- It attracts non believers,
- It inspires believers and
- It educates everyone.

A sermon should not be too long (30 minutes is a good maximum time).

The mood and tone is important as people will often remember a FEELING more than information. People must sense and feel the love, joy and excitement of Jesus and the Christian life along with being motivated by GRACE, rather than legalism, guilt or religion.

A 4-Point Checklist for Sermon Preparation ...

- 1) You** must be able to articulate in your own mind what the talk's one big message is. You should be able to state this in one sentence before you give your talk, and this would also work well as the introductory sentence of your talk..

**1 BIG
IDEA**

It should be a compelling and motivating idea that is captivating and important, and it must have HELPED YOU in your life. If it is real for you, it will be real to those who hear you. As a general guideline, this idea should inspire people to faith, hope and action, and it is based on joy rather than on legalism or duty.

- 2) To** back up and support your big idea, you should have around 3 main points which are helpful and along the same theme. People should be able to follow your logical progression and see how the three points back up the main idea. You can have more than three points if you are making the same point from several different angles OR if you are using several different Bible verses to support the same idea.

3
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SUPPORTING
Points

- 3) For** each point you make, you should try to have one **story** or a **personal example** that illustrates what you are saying. They give a window to your sermon, allowing light to shine in, and bringing your points to life. Without illustrations, your sermon could feel like it's all "facts". Illustrations and stories engage people's imagination and emotions, and can show how the truths you are speaking of have impacted and affected you in a personal way.

**ILLUSTRATIONS
&
STORIES**

- 4) There** should be a practical way that people can apply what you have said – it should change people's lives, and you should conclude with this application. There is a **general** life application – "how will I live differently going forward?" – and there is also an **immediate** application – "what is God saying to me right NOW?" Encourage people to "do business with God" right then and there and to make decisions or commitments if necessary. This "life application" can be a good conclusion to your talk, OR the main idea that you started with can also be helpful as a concluding summary.

**PRACTICAL
APPLICATION
AND SUMMARY**

3 - How to lead a Small Group

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like those below, or use an “app” like <https://letsplunge.yesheis.com/> :

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, “how can we pray for you / each other now?”
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person’s need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.

4 - Small Group Bible Study Questions and Guidelines for this message

OUTLINE OF THE SHORT VIDEO MESSAGE

1. Asking in Jesus' name does not mean we can do whatever we want, but rather it means aligning ourselves with his will and the mandate or blueprint he has given us.
2. Jesus referred to himself as the "Bread of Life," emphasizing that just as we need physical food daily, we also need to feed on God's Word every day for spiritual sustenance and growth. This involves an attitude of submission to God's will and regularly studying and absorbing the Bible.
3. Jesus also called himself the "Light of the World," which is connected to the Great Commission - his command to make disciples of all nations. Just as Jesus reached out to the lost and those in need of forgiveness, believers are called to shine his light and reach others with the Gospel message.

When we come to Jesus, we must lay down our own personal missions and agendas and take up his mission of reaching the world with the Good News. This is the mandate Jesus has given to all who follow him.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THIS SHORT VIDEO

1. What would it take for you to treat God's word with the same importance as you treat normal daily food?
2. How can we practically line up our life mission with God's Great Commission? What would we need to do differently?
3. How can we be more bold, practically starting to trust and act "in His Name", because we are acting in His Mandate?
4. Spend some time thanking God and praying specifically for each person's needs.

5 - Expanded Notes of the full Sermon

In His Name - Mandate

1. INTRO - "In His Name"

We have been learning what it means to pray and to act "in Jesus' name".

Several times Jesus said - Jhn 14:14 — "If you ask anything **in My name**, I will do it."

Mat 18:20 NKJV - "20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.""

Col 3:17 NKJV - "17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Mar 16:15-18 NKJV - "15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 "He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: **In My name** they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Jesus' use of an unusual way of saying "I AM" - "*ego eimi*" - effectively He was saying "I am, I am" = *Jesus' statement of divinity & authority*. Jesus also lined these "I Am statements to 7 other descriptive phrases: I am ... the "bread of life", the "true vine", the "door", the "good shepherd", the "resurrection and the life", the "way, the truth and the life", and the "light of the world". This mirrors Ex 3:13-15 where God gave us His name.

Pro 18:10 NKJV - "10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe."

2. In His "MANDATE"

We have seen that it means to be "in His Family" and "in His Authority". Today we look at being in His **Mandate**. We can't say we are "in His name" if we aren't doing the things He wants done.

Mat 7:21-23 NKJV - "21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will of My Father in heaven**. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied **in Your name**, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders **in Your name**?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practise lawlessness!'"

Jhn 15:14-15 NKJV - "14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

1Jo 5:14-15 NKJV - "14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

His mandate is His will - the thing He wants done, and there are 3 parts of this Mandate if we're to be able to say we're operating "in His name": He must be our Shepherd (Lord), He must be our daily Bread (food), and He must be our Light (Mission).

3. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD - Lordship - His will over our own. We can't be on our own mission - it must be His. A Shepherd **LEADS**.

<u>Jhn 10:1, 3-5, 9-11, 14, 16</u> - "1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ... 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice ; and he calls his own sheep by name and	Sheepfold = CHURCH Under Shepherds = Pastors Good Shepherd = leader (follow and know)
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<p>leads them out. 4 "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ... 9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ... 14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ... 16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."</p>	<p>His voice). LORDSHIP</p> <p>"In & Out" / "Other sheep" = MISSION / PLANTING / GOING OUT</p>
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The 3 main aspects of being in His Mandate are included in these verses:

- My willingness to follow / Obedience / His Lordship
- His Word / voice
- His Mission / the Great Commission - planting Churches

4. I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE - His Word -

Context = Deu 8:3 NKJV - "3 "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD."

<p><u>Jhn 6:35</u> And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ...</p> <p>38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.</p> <p>48 "I am the bread of life.</p> <p>51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." ...</p> <p>63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. ... 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."</p>	<p>I AM - "<i>ego eimi</i>" True Satisfaction</p> <p>LORDSHIP Commit to His will</p> <p>CHURCH Family - Fellowship around His sacrifice MISSION - the world</p> <p>His WORDS "Do you want to leave?" = FOLLOW / LORDSHIP</p>
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Mat 4:4 - "4 But He answered and said, "It is written, '**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**' "

2Ti 3:16-17 NIV - "16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The 3 main aspects of His Mandate are included in these verses:

- Obedience / willingness / laying down our life
- His Word
- His Mission / Great Commission - planting Churches

5. I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - His Great Commission -

Context / summary of the Great Commission: Mat 28:18-20 NKJV - "18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

<p><u>Jhn 8:12</u> - "12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." <u>Jhn 9:4,5</u> - "4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <u>Mat 5:14</u> - "14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."</p>	<p>Light = TRUTH, SALVATION, LIFE "Follows" = LORDSHIP His works = MISSION City on Hill = CHURCH</p>
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The 3 main aspects of His Mandate are included in these verses:

- Obedience
- His Word
- His Great Commission - Planting Churches

6. 1 OTHER SUMMARY PASSAGE SAYING THE SAME THINGS

<p><u>Rom 12:1-2</u> - "1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."</p>	<p>Sacrifice = LORDSHIP Renew mind = WORD Result = His WILL / MANDATE</p>
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7. Conclusion - practical response - Step out . Be bold. Be on the front foot.

- The "Gates of hell" shall not prevail - Mat 16:16-19 - we are **ADVANCING**
- The Syrophoenecian woman and all of His promises - Mat 15:22-28, 2 Cor 1:20. Jesus loved her persistence and her faith that all of God's good promises existed in this one Messiah.
- Peter on the boat - bold faith and not shrinking back - Mat 14:28-31 , Heb 10:35. Peter asks Jesus if he can come and walk, not vice versa.
- Paul obeying and stepping out even when things were unclear and hard. Paul kept going and doing the Great Commission even when things were hard or unclear.
- Heb 10:35, 38-39, 11:1 - "do not throw away your confidence"

2Co 1:20 NIV - "20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God."