

# *“There is a way, are you hiding it?”*

*Written October of 2008*

## **Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:14-16**

How many here believe that we can learn from our mistakes in the past? Well tonight I want to begin with analyzing the mistakes of the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus. We know that according to the prophecies found in Isaiah, Micah, Daniel and Hosea they all speak of Jesus Christ's: birth, ministry, and Death which the Gospels of Matthew, Luke, Mark, and John all account for the completion of them.

The Israelite's were a chosen people, they were chosen by God to receive a truth that the Son of God would come so that **The Price of Sin** would be paid, on **The Cross of Calvary**. The Jewish people as whole had a Revelation of Truth, that the Son of God would come to Earth, to save it and Redeem it from sin.

History tells us that the Jews, kept that truth to themselves, and did not share it with the whole world. **Are we doing the same thing today? Do we have a light of truth that we keep to ourselves?**

Having and Knowing a truth through the Word of God is only part of the equation. I believe that our lives can speak volumes of God's love, without ever having to say a word sometimes.

When I first preached here in this Church, in the middle of my Sermon, I told the story of my life. I was afraid to do it: the Human in me, maybe even the devil whispering to me: said don't do it, you'll be embarrassed, they'll look at you differently. But in faith I went forward and for Gods' Glory told my story anyway.

While I was writing this Sermon I came across this text found in **II Corinthians 12:9, 10**, If someone could please read it. Paul was praying for answers to his weaknesses and the Lord spoke directly to him and said ***“My Grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness”***

When we are weak He is strong. Yet sometimes as Christians we walk around living a lie that everything is good and perfect, when in reality its not. We need to just recognize that we are all **Broken people**, made **Whole** by the Grace of God.

Our Brothers and Sisters in The Body of Christ need to know that. **It's so hard to hear about God from a “Perfect Person” (Super Christian). I don't think it bothers the world that we sin, are weak and are imperfect, it bothers the world that we act that we don't.**

**The best way we can show the Love of Jesus to someone, is to show them how He can transform a broken, weak, imperfect person as ourselves and be used for Gods' Glory for His Kingdom.** We need to talk about our weaknesses and talk about God's awesome Grace that makes us strong.

I Finally understood why God wanted me to tell my life story that day, **"For I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness, for when I am weak I am Strong in the Lord"**

My dear Brothers and Sisters, if God can use a lying, broken, miserable, former drug addict as myself, and make me whole by His Grace, He can use anyone.

The Holy Spirit has put several people in my path that are searching for meaning, searching for a door to reach Gods' Grace, and you know what breaks my heart the most, is when I asked them why haven't you made a decision to give your life to Christ? None of them give an exact answer, but the same reasons seem to pop-up: I have too many things to fix before I can do that, I have to read the Bible more, I've done too many things for God to use me or forgive me, I don't own church clothes. I tell them **God says come as you are**, but they measure themselves by those quote **"Perfect Christians"** and base their decision on the examples of the Body of Christ that surrounds them.

Everyone knows by heart **John 3:16**, but does everyone know **John 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved"**

How many of us whether knowingly or unknowingly have condemned our Brethren by not sharing with them Gods' Light of Salvation? Let us read our final text this evening found in: **Ephesians 4:11-13.**

***"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip Gods' people to do His work and build up the church, the Body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of Gods' Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."*** NLT

I believe we are all Preachers/Ministers in our daily lives; by Living the word of God we can minister to the people that surround us. We are The Body of Christ, with a Mission to carry the Good News of Salvation through Jesus, and the Truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom to the entire world.

It shouldn't matter what you've done in your past, or if you're Catholic, Jehovah 's Witness, Methodist, Baptist, Black, or White or Spanish, it is our mandate from God to carry the Truth to all the World not just keep it to ourselves.

### In Closing

I wanted to read to you the chorus of one of my favorite songs by Casting Crowns, “**If we are the Body**”:

If we are the Body  
Why aren't His Arms reaching?  
Why aren't His Hands Healing?  
Why aren't His Words Teaching?

And if we are the Body  
Why aren't His Feet Going?  
Why is His Love not showing them (the world?)  
There is way...

Jesus paid much too high a price, for us to pick and choose who should come to Christ. IF WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST THEN SHOW THEM **JESUS IS THE WAY.**

My dear Brothers and Sisters it is time to lift the Banner of Christ not only ONE day a week when we congregate at church. We should be lifting the Banner of Christ everyday in our daily lives; allowing others to see Christ in us not just an empty religion. May the Holy Spirit help all of us reflect the LOVE of Christ to all those who surround us. May God bless you all!