

Super Jesus

John 14:1-6

Preface

Today is Super Sunday at Barnwell Baptist Church. Today we enthusiastically kick off our new church year with high goals and expectations.

We chose to emphasize this special day by calling it Super Sunday which is a fitting name. Our goal was to have super attendance in Sunday School, super attendance in worship and a super offering. At the end of the service, we will announce the results.

Illus: My son Austin is here today and he and Janet Bishop announced their engagement last week. We are very proud of him and Janet and ask that you pray for them as they embark on forming a new family under God's leadership and guidance.

When Austin was a little boy, he often looked like an abused child. The problem was that he had these Superman pajamas. The pajamas went from neck to feet and were the standard red and blue superman colors. They had a big Superman emblem in the chest and a flowing red cape in the back. Austin loved those pajamas. Some days he would wear them all day, never taking them off. He seemed to believe they actually made him Superman. He would run through the house full speed and look at me and ask, "Is my cape flapping in the air Daddy?" The problem was that he was so busy checking out the cape and how cool he looked that his flights would usually end in a crash into a door jam, resulting in a bruise or cut.

What child hasn't dreamed of being Superman? Like all of us, Austin grew older and faced the reality that Superman and all of his powers were fictitious.

But there has been one Superman to live on earth. One man has walked this earth with astounding supernatural powers. He is Jesus Christ the son of God, and He lives today.

Even today Jesus calls men and women to experience His supernatural powers. He has the power to heal your broken homes, your broken lives and your broken hearts.

Listen carefully to our text as Jesus calls upon us to trust Him for the spiritual healing and power that comes only from trusting in Him.

Scripture – Read

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God"; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms (dwelling places); if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:1-6 NIV

Introduction

From his birth to his resurrection, Jesus did many supernatural amazing things during his time on earth.

"Lazarus come forth!" he spoke and up from the grave came Lazarus.

In Galilee a royal official came to Jesus and asked him to come quickly down to Capernaum as his son was dying. Jesus responded, "You may go, your son lives" and his son lived.

Jesus healed the sick and made the blind to see again. He touched the untouchables and restored their physical health. More importantly, He gave people hope and spiritual fulfillment.

Jesus gave people reason and purpose for living.

Imagine the thrust in the heart of the woman caught in adultery. One moment she was facing death and the next she hears Jesus say, "Where are your accusers? Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more."

Even today, Jesus heals broken lives and hearts. Even today Jesus wants to restore our brokenness and give us reason and purpose. Jesus desires to give each and every one of us forgiveness and spiritual fulfillment.

What must we do to receive this supernatural power from our Lord? The answer is Trust!

Jesus calls upon us to us to trust in Him in 3 areas.

Content

1. Trust In My Presence

Life is not always easy. Life is often hard and challenging. Sometimes we find ourselves in a whirlwind over things out of our control. Other times we find ourselves in a mess that we created all on our own.

Illus: I am reminded of the story of a lady at the airport who stopped in the concourse to buy a Kit Kat candy bar to eat while she was waiting for her plane. In the crowded waiting area she spied an empty seat at the end of one of the rows. Rushing to get it, she quickly leaned her luggage against it, placed her purse and other small items on the table between her & a rather large man seated there, & then turned to straighten her luggage.

With everything finally in order, she was ready to eat her Kit Kat candy bar. But to her surprise, as she started to reach for it, she saw the man in the next seat unwrapping her Kit Kat candy bar, & she watched in utter amazement as he broke off a section & ate it. She thought, "Well, my goodness, I've never seen such gall." She glared at him, & he looked at her, but no words were exchanged.

She was so furious at what he had done that she decided that if he was going to be that brazen about it, she could be brazen, too. So she reached over to him, broke off a piece & ate it herself. Then he broke off another piece & ate it. It became almost a duel between the two of them to see who would get the most. Quickly the candy bar was consumed, & she sat there just boiling that he would be so rude & so presumptuous as to eat half of her candy bar.

Well, after a few minutes of silence, the man got up & left & then came back with another Kit Kat candy bar. He unwrapped it, broke off a piece & started eating. She thought, "Well, since he ate half of mine, I'm going to eat half of his." So she reached over & broke off another piece & ate it.

Once again the same scenario was repeated until the whole candy bar was gone. She sat there thinking, "This is the most ridiculous thing that has happened to me in all my life." She continued to glare at him, & he looked at her, with neither one saying a word.

Finally, over the intercom came the announcement that her plane was ready for boarding. So she opened her purse to get her boarding pass &, to her utter embarrassment, there was her Kit Kat candy bar.

Like this lady, we often make our own messes with our assumptions, decisions and actions. We often ignore God's teachings and find ourselves involved in a mess of our own doing.

On the other hand, sometimes life just deals us an unfair and difficult hand. Whatever struggles you face today, Jesus calls you to trust in His presence. With all of life's sharp edges and cliffs, Jesus tells us not to be troubled, but to trust in His presence.

Some of you are facing the most challenging days of your life. You may be struggling with financial issues, family issues or marriage problems. Jesus says trust in my presence.

When we come to the 14th chapter of John, the disciples are feeling pretty overwhelmed. They have been on an emotional roller-coaster. Their week had begun with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with people waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna to the King!"

But the enthusiasm quickly turned to disappointment as the people realized Jesus didn't come to be crowned an earthly king. Jesus was being betrayed and He knew His disciples needed encouragement.

Jesus said to them; *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God"; trust also in me."*

Jesus says the same to you and me today. If your heart is burdened, if you are struggling, the peace you so desperately need can be found in the presence of Jesus.

You need to know that Christ is with you in all you do and in all your struggles. Even when you are not living for Him, he is eager to comfort you and restore your relationship with Him.

One of the most awesome feelings is when you are not serving God and you are not walking with him and you begin to feel His conviction calling you home. That is His presence! What a joy to know the King is present in your life even when you don't deserve His presence.

Whatever you are facing today, trust in the presence of your savior. Know that He is with you, walking with you and comforting you in spite of your pain.

Jesus promised us, *"Lo I am with you always. I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Trust in His presence.

2. Trust In My Promises

God's Word offers us so much if we will just trust in His promises. We are promised that we are forgiven when we believe and accept the gift of salvation.

We are promised so many things and yet for some strange reason we have trouble trusting the promises of our Lord.

Illus: I found a sad irony in the notion of promises this month as I watched portions of the DNC and RNC on television. I watched as politicians stood and promised all sorts of change and prosperity; all the while knowing they cannot equitably deliver on them. You cannot count on the promises of politicians.

Likewise Satan makes false promises. Satan always promises the best but delivers the worst. Satan promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasures and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death.

God on the other hand always delivers on His promises and then some. Notice how Jesus says in verse 2, *"If it were not so, I would have told you."* In other words, you can bank on what I tell you.

Jesus describes heaven as His father's house and He promises he goes to prepare that place for us as well.

Illus: Just a couple of weeks ago we buried Marvin Terrell. Mid week I sat in his nursing home room and observed as a peaceful man was ready to go home. That Saturday he left this earth. I thought later about how Marvin struggled to find the energy to talk but told me he was ready to go home.

Think about it. So much was already there. His name was written there, his citizenship was there, his God was there, his Savior was there, his inheritance was there, his parents were there, his wife was there; so much of him was already there. Now he is home.

We are promised eternal life, a place to go home when our time is done and yet we live as though this is our home.

We are promised forgiveness; yet we struggle to trust that forgiveness and choose to wallow in our guilt.

We are promised abundant life if we will live for Him; yet we walk down our own paths and make everything else our lord.

You and I can absolutely 100% count on the promises of our Lord.

Trust in His promises.

3. Trust In My Person

Most importantly, we must trust in His person. We must trust with everything within us in the person of Jesus Christ.

We must trust that He is the one and only son of the one and only God; creator of the universe. We must trust that He came to earth and bore our sins on the cross and was resurrected from the grave that we might have victory.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Through the person of Jesus Christ, we have forgiveness, fulfillment, joy, purpose, peace, meaning, freedom, justification, new life and eternal life.

Through Jesus Christ we become a child of the King. We share in the inheritance of the Heavenly Father.

Illus: I feel compelled to emphasize this point by sharing my own personal experience. When I was 5 years old my father left my mother, myself and my 2 year old sister. In 1962 my mother was forced to raise 2 children on her own. She worked as a checkout clerk in a grocery store to raise us.

Within a couple of years my mother married my first step father. I was happy to make Myron my new daddy as I longed for a father figure in my life.

It wasn't long until my new father became violent towards each one of us. When I would least expect it, Myron would reach across the small kitchen table like lightning and backhand me in the mouth, often knocking me completely out of the chair and on to the floor. He would then shout, "I told you not to smack!" My spirit became crushed.

To this day I can vividly remember the scene in our front yard. Myron was straddled across my mother's chest with her on the ground. He had her by the hair and was violently banging her head against the ground. My sisters and I were hysterical and I struggled to pull him off.

Myron was a highway patrolman who worked the night shift. One night while he was at work, we slipped out of the house carrying some bags and walked to his sister's house. His sympathetic sister took us to the bus station and paid for tickets for us to travel to an aunt's home in Texas and escape Myron's tyranny. These experiences are permanently etched in my memory.

I hated Myron Barnes. I vowed for years that one day I would grow big and strong and I would return to Myron and beat the daylights out of him.

Later when I was in the 6th grade, my real father came back on the scene. We were living in low-rent government housing in Pascagoula, MS when he came to stay with us for a few weeks.

I was so excited. I badgered my mother about getting back with my father. I dreamed of being a real family and having that father I so longed for. On the way home from school I always walked by a pawn shop and admired a set of drums in the window. I dreamed of learning how to play the drums. My father generously promised me that one day soon he would buy me that set of drums.

One afternoon we came home to realize my father had packed up and left again. I was devastated that my dreams of a real family were once again crushed. We did not have air conditioning and that night as we started to go to bed I went to get the box fan and place it in the hall as we did every night. It was nowhere to be found. We could not figure out what had happened to our blue box fan.

The next day as I peaked in the window of the pawn shop to take another look at the drum set, I had some hidden hope that my father might still be in town and coming home. To my surprise, I spotted our box fan sitting in the storefront. I marched in and began to question the owner about the fan. My father had pawned it for \$2.00 before leaving town.

That day I vowed I would never again call anyone "father."

There is more to my story including a 2nd step father but I will spare you the details and get to the important ending and the point of all of this personal laundry.

In the 9th grade in Grand Bay Alabama, a young lady invited me to a revival at the local Baptist church. For the first time, I heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. I heard about who He was, what He had done for me and how much He loved me.

God's word tells us that if we will believe in our heart that Jesus Christ is the son of God and confess with our tongue that He is Lord, we will be saved. That night at Friendship Baptist Church, I believed and I confessed that Jesus Christ was the son of God and I made Him Lord of my life.

That night I started a new journey, no a new life that put all of the ugly past behind me and gave me a fresh start as a new person in Christ.

Because I trusted in the person of Christ, who he is, I went from a fatherless boy to a child of the king.

I have gone from a boy with hate and anger to one who has forgiven and no longer desires revenge. I have gone from a kid with no hope to a man with everything I could have hoped for.

God gave me a family of believers in Friendship Baptist Church who to this day love and pray for me.

God gave me a new a Christian mother who loves and lives for Him and prays for me, my family and this church every night.

God gave me a wonderful wife and a family of my own, a real family where we love one another. We have our faults and problems for sure. But we are a real loving family still together.

God made me a father and showed me how to be a father. Again, far from a perfect father but a great father in contrast to the earthly men I once called father.

And, though I vowed to never call anyone else father again, since that night in the 9th grade I have called God, the king of kings my father every day of my life. I can speak to him anytime I want and I have the assurance that he is watching over me all the time.

And here I stand before you today, your Pastor with a growing church family. Look what God has given me. Oh my how God has turned my life around to His glory.

Because I trusted in the person of Jesus Christ!

I implore you to trust in the Person of Jesus Christ. Make Him Lord of your life today.

Conclusion

I believe there is someone here today **who relates to my story**. Otherwise I do not believe God would have me pour out such deep and personal details.

Perhaps you are here today and the **anger still rages inside of you?** Perhaps you just haven't been able to let go and you still carry that burning ball of fire in your heart that seeks revenge?

Maybe you are here and your circumstances are different but perhaps divorce or other family issues have ripped your heart apart and you need the same healing I have described.

You may be someone here today who owes and apology.

You may be someone there today who needs to grant forgiveness.

You may think you are stuck and destined to spend your life wallowing in guilt, shame or resentment, but you are not.

If you will trust in the Presence, Promises and Person of Jesus Christ, you can embark on a whole new life.

But you must trust.

Illus: Little boy who stepped into offering plate and said I give you me, all of me.