

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – 2024
Saturday, 1/27 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/28 at 9:00



Epiphany - The Word, The Epiphany, The Season, The Readings, and The Application!

Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Let us keep realizing that **JESUS** is our **EVERYTHING** – *especially our ticket to heaven!*

Here at Bethlehem, we normally follow the church year – *because it keeps us focused on Jesus:*

- **Advent:** *We focus on Jesus' coming(s) – first and second; the season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.*
- **Christmas:** *We focus on Jesus' birth; 12/25 through 1/5 are the 12 days of Christmas.*
- **Epiphany:** *The topic of this sermon.*

1. **Epiphany – The Word:** The word “Epiphany” means to *manifest* or *reveal* something that was *hidden*. I had an epiphany many years ago when the Holy Spirit revealed to me that we are saved by **faith alone**, not faith + works. While I was deceived, *the HS, through the Bible, revealed God’s saving truth to me and radically changed my life!*
2. **Epiphany – The Epiphany:** When people talk about “**The Epiphany**,” they are normally talking about the Holy Spirit revealing the identity of Jesus to the magi. Why was that significant for us Gentiles? It helps us understand that God gave His Son to save BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES!
3. **Epiphany – The Season:** Epiphany is the season between Christmas and Lent. During the Season of Epiphany, God clarifies to us that the Baby born in Bethlehem IS THE VERY SON OF GOD IN HUMAN FLESH! Therefore, *He can remove our sins!*
4. **Epiphany – The Readings:** In this section I am going to share some recent Epiphany Bible readings that point to Jesus’ identity:
 - a. John the Baptizer said this about Jesus: “After me One is coming who is **mightier than I**, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. I baptized you with water; but **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit**” (Mark 1:7-8). // Jesus Is God!
 - b. God the Father said this to Jesus: “**You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased**” (Mark 1:11). // Jesus Is God’s only Son, *wearing human flesh!*

- c. Philip said this about Jesus: “We have found **Him of whom Moses** in the Law and *also* the Prophets **wrote...**” (John 1:45). // The OT Scriptures do not include the name, Jesus, but *the OT Scriptures are ALL ABOUT JESUS!*
- d. Jesus said to Nathanael: “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, **I saw you**” (John 1:48). // Jesus, *being the Son of God*, can know all things!
- e. These men took radical action: As [Jesus] was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew... casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” **Immediately they left their nets and followed Him**. Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. **Immediately** He called them; and **they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him** (Mark 1:16-20). // All four men *immediately* left their families businesses to follow Jesus. Their actions point to Jesus’ being the Messiah!
- f. Jesus demonstrated His power over demons: “Be quiet, and come out of him!” Throwing him into convulsions, **the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him**. (Mark 1:25-26). // Demons are super-powerful evil angels, yet Jesus – *the very Son of God* – IS ALMIGHTY IN POWER!

5. Epiphany – The Application:

- a. Since the Gentile magi trusted in Jesus, we know Jesus Is the Savior for everyone – *Jews and Gentiles!*
- b. Since the Season of Epiphany ends with Jesus’ transfiguration, we have physical evidence that Jesus Is God!
- c. Since we know Jesus Is God, we know His saving work is sufficient to remove our sins and open heaven!
- d. Since we know Jesus as our Savior and honor Him as our Lord, *we are filled with amazing peace!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, as we move through this Season of Epiphany, You keep clarifying to us who Jesus Is and how we are eternally blessed through Him. **TYSM!**

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