**NOT! AFRAID – We have hope!**

**How are you doing? We are living in the strangest time of our life. Happy Palm Sunday! Explain Palm Sunday. Hope arrived!**

**As you know... The coronavirus (Covid-19) is spreading – the obvious**

**What should we do? How should we respond?**

**As we all know Covid-19 is highly contagious! (explain)**

**How can we stop the spread? 6ft – social distancing.**

**Perhaps the only thing more CONTAGIOUS than the VIRUS - FEAR!**

**Reasons: stock market drops - schools closed – financial challenges - limited group gatherings - empty church buildings - travel bans - and to top it off - Short on TP! This is tough. People become afraid!**

**The virus is incredibly contagious and so is – FEAR.**

**Last week we do not have to fear – we have peace.**

**Doesn’t take much for FEAR to spread uncontrollably!**

**Fear is contagious! I see it online and with some of you.**

**When we find out we’d been close to someone who was sick…**

**What if we’re carriers? What is we hurt someone? What if what we have spreads?**

**Hope you understand (know this) – You (WE) Are A Carrier – today!!!**

**You are carrying - something! What do you spread?**

**When people get near you - they will catch what you have!**

**You Are A Carrier! But is what you’re carrying worth catching?**

**Peter & John arrested and told to stop speaking of Jesus - Acts 4:17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.” 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (last week – we can’t stop being a Light and spreading Life)**

**Paul writing to believers Thessalonica – in the middle of fear and trials – but something was spreading - 1 Thessalonians 1:2 We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. 3 As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**They had a reputation that was spreading the known world! SO much we are still talking about it. What was spreading?**

**Three marks of a contagious Christian - Contagious:**

* **Faithful work! Everybody say Faith spreader**

**In the face of trials and uncertainty you are unmoved and faithful to Jesus in your work.**

* **Loving deeds! Everybody say Love giver**

**Your labor of love – not just words compassion in action!**

* **Enduring hope! Everybody say Hope Dealer**

**Steadfast – consistent unending hope!**

**How did they have FAITH, HOPE and LOVE? Jesus!**

**1 Thes 1:4 We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. 5 For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. (Power of salvation – Rom 1:16)**

**Imagine when there is a treatment for Covid-19? Cure? Do you think that good news will spread?!**

**We have Life changing GOOD NEWS! “We brought you - Good news!”**

**We see bad news about this almost every day = the world is hungry for good news – you have it, disciple! I have very good news today!**

**Good News that doesn’t just heal a physical sickness –**

**but cures a spiritual sickness! The real problem!**

**Jesus didn’t come For the Healthy - but the Sick! (lepers & sick)**

**Jesus didn’t come For Righteous - but for Sinners! (rejected & sinful – like me)**

**God didn’t just shout his love from heaven. He showed it on earth!**

**He walked this planet - to the cross this Friday to the grave… (explain)**

**Because of what Jesus did – we can be made right with God!**

**Good news – you can be forgiven, made whole, and know the creator.**

**That’s Good News Worth spreading!**

**Disciple – you are a Carrier – You’re Carrying something!**

**Is what you are carrying worth spreading?**

**Paul goes on - 1 Thes 1:8 And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God.**

**“Ringing out (echoing, spreading) from you to people everywhere!” That’s what happens when people catch a passion for Jesus! What they have - starts to spread! It was contagious!**

**Good news spreads**

**When Jesus raised a little girl from the dead…**

**Matt 9:26 - News of this spread through all that region…**

**When Jesus Cast out evil spirits…**

**Mark 1:28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region…**

**God used disciples…**

**Acts 6:7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly…**

**How did this good news / message / word of God spread?**

**3 reasons: Their Faithful works, Loving deeds, Enduring hope!**

**Fear is contagious (does not take much) but so is FAITH. HOPE, LOVE!**

**I don’t know about you – but I’m a carrier!**

**I’m a Faith Spreader—Love Giver—Hope Dealer!**

**If you get too close to me - you’re going to catch what I’m carrying!**

**Because of the Lord Jesus - I’m Full of Faith and Hope - Not fear!**

**“Pastor are you afraid that Christians aren’t gathering in buildings!” I say this all the time - Church is not a building! We are the church! Buildings are just tools.**

**Jesus didn’t say - Go into your homes and hide! But - Go into the world and shine! How can we do this with a shelter in place at home?**

**If we can’t gather physically for a while, but we gather digitally!**

**Good news worth spreading! We are all digital evangelists!**

**Follow / Comment / Share / Invite - Faith Spreader—Love giver!**

**John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, (By the way we hoard bottled water and TP? / By the way hold up for safety!) if you love one another.” (By the way we love one another! / By our obedience to his word…)**

**How can we meet needs in our community? 2 ½ weeks**

**Tutor kids run errands for those quarantined - local missions.**

**Childcare for parents who work.**

**Faith spreader—Love giver—Hope dealer!**

**We’ve got HOPE no virus can kill.**

**Many hope things go back to normal. I want way more hope than that! Normal was comfortable! Selfish! Spiritually safe. Spiritually lukewarm!**

**This is a wake-up call for the church to wake up and unite! Stand together! Stand boldly! To shine the hope of JESUS!**

**My hope NOT in the government (we pray for), medicine (we pray for), or spiritual leaders (we pray for)!**

**My hope is in the one who spoke the world into being! My hope is the all-knowing, all powerful, ever-present God universe!**

**I am a Faith-Spreader—Love Giver—Hope dealer!**

**Because of Jesus! – Who is Jesus?**

**He is the Door through which we enter**

**He is the Spiritual bread that strengthens soul.**

**He Delivers the captives—Restores the broken. Strengthens the weak.**

**He is our Our provider! Comforter! Source! Strength! Redeemer!**

**He is our Rock—Sustainer—Assurance—Firm foundation**

**He is a Shelter in time of trouble— A Light when the world is dark!**

**He is the Prince Peace, Lamb God, the Alpha Omega, perfect and righteous one**

**He is Goodness indescribable—Power incomprehensible—Grace irresistible.**

**At his name—Darkness and demons tremble and flee!**

**The cross could not keep him, death couldn’t defeat him, and the Grave couldn’t hold him! He is ALIVE – the everlasting to everlasting!!!**

**Fear is contagious—So is faith!**

**Hate is contagious—So is love!**

**Worry is contagious—So is hope!**

**Three marks of a contagious disciple of Jesus**

**Faithful work - Loving deeds - Enduring hope!**

**Faith Spreader - Love Giver - Hope Dealer!**

**You are a carrier - of Something.**

**Is what you’re carrying worth catching?**

**As the world grows darker – the Light shines brighter!**

**The Good news of Jesus is spreading! WE HAVE HOPE!**

**\*\*\* Truth is we all have tested positive**

**\*\*\* We are all infected with the disease of sin. And it is killing us.**

**\*\*\* And there is only one vaccine – one remedy – the redeemer Jesus!**

**Communion (fellowship - connection) – together.**

**On the night he was to be betrayed.**

**Outdoor services – discouraged in our city and county**

**Next week is Easter – use our online graphic tomorrow to invite others to join us.**