

Introduction:

- On January 15, 2009, US Airways flight 1549 collided with a flock of seagulls shortly after liftoff from La Guardia airport in New York City. The birds congested both engines, causing them to fail and leave the pilots without any power to continue flying. With only seconds to act, Captain Sullenberger contemplated a return to the airport, but realized they weren't going to make it. The only option was to ditch in the Hudson River. After following an emergency checklist with his crew, Sullenberger guided the plane down just beyond the George Washington Bridge and successfully landed in the river. An aviation expert later called it "...the most successful ditching in aviation history." After an investigation, all were in agreement that Captain Sullenberger had done everything "by the book." Had he made an error in judgment, or failed to follow the emergency procedures, it's very likely that all 150 passengers and 5 crew members would be dead right now. But his preparation, experience, and determination to follow procedures, even with only seconds to act, turned him into a hero. **APPLICATION:** God's Word equips us with the wisdom and knowledge we need to respond the right way when we encounter challenges and hardships. If we, like Captain Sullenberger, commit ourselves to operating "by the book," we'll be equipped to deal with life's challenges quickly and decisively, averting what could be serious consequences.
- *"Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress."* (Revelation 19:11-15, NLT)
- Three things I want to look at this morning: Recognizing the Word, Receiving the Word, Releasing the Word.

I. Recognizing the Word

- A. John's picture of Jesus in Revelation 19 paints an awesome picture of Who Jesus is.
 1. He is faithful
 2. He is true-these first two qualities emphasize His reliability.
 3. He judges fairly
 4. He righteously wages war. - these two qualities emphasize His truth and justice.
 5. He has eyes like fire. They penetrate, see everything.
 6. He has numerous crowns. vs. Not limited crowns like the dragon of Rev 12.
 7. He has a name known by no-one and He is followed by the armies of heaven...Saints who are also dressed in white!

8. This is an incredibly victorious picture! And the title of this victorious one is The Word of God! To get the Word to work for you, you have to recognize who the Word is! We must see The Word victorious! We must see The Word triumphant! We the church must recognize the Word of God! We must recognize WHO the Word is and What the Word does.
- B. Recognize the 'Who' of the Word. The Word is a person. The Word is Jesus. The title that John sees in his revelation chapter 19 of the conquerer is The Word of God. John recognized the man-JESUS! John saw a new side of the prior revelation of Jesus as the Word. This time the Word is fierce!
1. *"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God."* (John 1:1, NLT) This is talking about Jesus. This is what John first saw in Jesus.
 2. *"So the Word became human (Jesus) and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."* (John 1:14, NLT)
 3. As the second person of the trinity, Jesus, the Word has the two fold function of: "communicating the character of God to us and the will of God for us." Wayne Grudem Systematic Theology. We must recognize Who the Word is.
- C. Recognize the What the Word Is/Does
1. The Word reveals His authority. In Revelation 19:11-ff, it is not so much about the self-revelation of God as it is the revelation of His authority. He brings justice to His defeated enemies. A role of function and not position.
 2. *"In Hebrew thought, a word is not a lifeless sound but an active agent that achieves the intention of the one who speaks (Gen 1:3, 7, 9, etc.)."* Mounce, R. H. (1997). *The Book of Revelation* (p. 354). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
 3. The Word is alive! It is living and active! *"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."* (Hebrews 4:12, NLT)
 - a) "It is living, effective, and self-fulfilling; it diagnoses the condition of the human heart, saying "Thou ailest here, and here"; it brings blessing to those who receive it in faith and pronounces judgment on those who disregard it." Bruce, F. F. (1990). *The Epistle to the Hebrews* (Rev. ed., p. 111). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. This is what the Word does! This is how the Word works for me.
 4. The Word of God is God fulfilling His divine purpose! *"It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."* (Isaiah 55:11, NLT) "It is God's word that lets us know what to trust Him for." FF Bosworth, Christ the Healer.

5. The Word is the active utterance of God. It takes the form of powerful active decrees that cause events to happen. It bears with itself a creative force as in Genesis chapter one.
 - a) *"The Lord merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born."* (Psalm 33:6, NLT)
 - b) "A decree of God is a word of God that causes something to happen." Excerpt From: Wayne Grudem. "Systematic Theology." iBooks.
6. God's word is God's voice revealing His heart, and His plans for His people.
7. The Word destroys what is not in agreement with Heaven!
 - a) The army in Rev. 19 is not fighting so it appears. But it is the sword of the Word that is destroying enemies.
 - b) The enemy is everything that stands in opposition to the will of God and Kingdom of God.
- D. The Word is not an emotional band aid. It is not just a novel religious idea of generations before us. It is eternal! Therefore it is still a 'Now Word' relevant to your life, right now! Our job is to receive the Word.

II. **Receiving the Word**

- A. To receive the Word means you have to hear it. You can't receive a Word you can't hear.
 1. *And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him?*NLT (Ro 10:14).
 2. My sheep hear my voice listen and follow. Jn 10:3,4,5,**27
 3. That is why it is important to: 1. Have daily time in word. 2. Regularly attend church. 3. Meditate on the word.
- B. To receive the Word means to accept it. Or to take into your possession.
 1. You can have it but it not be yours. Ie. If someone says to me. "Give this to your dad." I have possession of it but it is not mine. It is his. There is a difference between you holding the Word and possessing the Word.
 2. Or you can take possession of a thing and it is yours the moment you do.
- C. To receive the Word means to welcome it.
 1. Mt 13:20 speaks about receiving the Word with joy but in reference to having no root it withers.
 2. To welcome means you must treat with the utmost respect and honor.
- D. To receive the Word means to believe it.
 1. Faith comes by hearing the message and the message through the Word. Ro 10:17
 2. The Word works for those who work the Word.
- E. The rifleman's creed. IE. This is my Bible
 1. **The Rifleman's Creed-** you learn this when you join the Marines.
 - a) For a marine, his rifle is his life on the battle field. As a rifleman, to survive you must treat your rifle with respect, know how it works, and know who to use it.

b) **This is my Bible.** There are many like it, but this one is mine. My Bible is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. My Bible, without me, is useless. Without my Bible, I am useless. I must fire my Bible true. I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me. I must take him out before he takes me out. I WILL...My Bible and I know that what counts in this war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, nor the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count. WE WILL HIT... My Bible is Living and Active, even as I, because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. It has no weaknesses, it's strength. It has no parts and needs no accessories. I will hide it in my heart, keep it upon my lips, and confess it as Truth in every situation and circumstance of life. I WILL...We will become part of each other. WE WILL...In Christ Jesus, we are the masters of our enemy. The Word is the Savior of my life. So be it, until victory is global and the The Prince of Peace Rules Supreme!

2. To be a part of the army of the living God requires one to know the Word.

III. Releasing the Word

A. The Word of God is released through faith. We find a common expression in the Word that shows what happens when faith is released.

1. *"Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened." And the young servant was healed that same hour."* (Matthew 8:13, NLT)
2. *"Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, "Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well." And the woman was healed at that moment."* (Matthew 9:22, NLT)
3. Jesus sees the faith of friends. *"Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.""* (Matthew 9:2, NLT)
4. *"So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!"* (Hebrews 10:35, NLT)
5. Faith can be perceived. *"and listening as Paul preached. Looking straight at him, Paul realized he had faith to be healed."* (Acts 14:9, NLT)

B. Releasing the Word through confession

1. *"For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."* (Romans 10:10, NLT)
2. *"For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.""* (Mark 5:28, NKJV) see the result vs. 34.
3. *"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."* (Mark 11:23, NKJV) A believing heart and a faith filled mouth can move a mountain!

4. "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise." (Hebrews 10:23, NLT)
 - a) the word affirm in NLT or profession NKJV is Gr. homologia-meaning to speak the same thing.
 - b) Say the same thing that God is saying. Therefore, "what can I say that God has already said?"
 5. A decree and a confession are the same.
- C. Releasing the Word through Action
1. "four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. . ." Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:3,5, NLT)
 2. "I will show you my faith by my good deeds." James 2:18
 3. TL Osborne says, *"When the promises of God are believed and acted upon they become the power of God."* Faith, by Phil Pringle
 4. ie. The children of Israel could not take the promise land until they acted on the Word.
 - 5.

Conclusion:

- Recognize the Word for Who and What it is. Receive the Word and own it. Release the Word through your confession, your faith and your action.
- Jesus in Revelation 19 is FIERCE! He wants you to be fierce in your faith!