

Disciples Who Share

E.T.S.

Luke 6:12-19 describes Jesus's choice of twelve disciples to be His apostles and the subsequent ministry to a large crowd from all over the region.

E.S.S.

Jesus invites us to participate in His work of sharing His message, love, and power with the world.

OBJ.

For the Christ Follower: Join Jesus by sharing His message, love, and power with the world.

For the Christ Seeker: Let Jesus make you new. Become part of the Kingdom that He is building.

Illustration

Have you heard or used the phrase, "Sharing, sharing, that's what Christians do."?

The phrase represents a jingle used by some to prompt others to share what they have, usually with the person repeating the refrain.

As a young boy, I once used the refrain with my younger sister to prompt her to share something she had with me. She responded, "Well, I am not a Christian yet."

The refrain identifies a truth, but not in the way it has been often used.

Introduction

Would you join me by opening your Bible to the Gospel according to Luke chapter six?

Considering this passage leads us to recognize that followers of Jesus have something to share with others, something we should share with others.

What do we have to share with others?

Follow along as I read Luke 6:12-19.

Bible

(12) And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. (13) And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; (14) Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, (15) Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphæus, and Simon called Zelotes, (16) And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor. (17) And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judæa and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to

be healed of their diseases; (18) And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. (19) And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

Luke 6:12-19 - KJV

Introduction

Luke shows that Jesus came to a crucial time in His earthly ministry.

We have seen how the religious leaders' approach to Jesus transitioned following the healing of the paralytic recorded at the beginning of chapter 5. They are no longer investigating Him, they are antagonizing Him. They would continually oppose Him moving forward.

Additionally, Jesus thought about His work. Not only the current work He was doing, but the work He desired to continue through His followers after He finished His redeeming work.

Remember, Luke penned the Gospel according to Luke and the book of Acts. He wrote both letters to a person named Theophilus. He penned Luke to set in order the things Theophilus heard of Jesus and Acts to continue the story.

Bible

(1) The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Acts 1:1 - KJV

Introduction

Wait.

Doesn't Luke tell the story from before Jesus's birth until after Jesus's death and resurrection?

How could that be what Jesus BEGAN to do and teach?

Because the work of Jesus continued through the apostles and the church, just as it continues through His followers and church today.

Jesus had a lot on His mind.

The importance of this all drove Him to pray. The very Son of God Who stands equal with the Father, as a man needed to seek His Father. He faced critical situations and problems in His humanity by seeking His Father and relying on the power of the Spirit...just as we should.

This represents how Jesus approached critical decisions and times in His life.

How do you approach them?

It's Graduate Recognition Sunday and we have several high school and college graduates.

Have you spent time seeking God about what He wants you to do now? Are you simply taking the next logical steps? The steps you want? Have you even prayed about the next step?

Others of us face critical decisions or times now. How are you approaching them?

“One night alone in prayer might make us new men, changed from poverty of soul to spiritual

wealth, from trembling to triumphing” (Spurgeon as cited in Guzik).

Learn from Jesus's example.

So, Jesus spent this time in prayer because of the opposition and His desire to continue His work through His followers. The morning following His night spent praying, Jesus called His disciples to Himself and selected the 12 who would be specially set apart as His apostles. They were a varied group of guys from different backgrounds with different social standings and social viewpoints. Apart from Jesus, there were even some who would naturally hate each other (think Levi and Simon Zelotes)! However, they put aside differences for the sake of Jesus.

Is Jesus worth putting aside our differences for?

Is Jesus's work continuing in the world worth setting aside our preferences, our ways, our viewpoints, etc. so we can make a difference for Him?

He gave them and He's given us something to share. As they eventually learned to set aside differences for His sake, let us learn to set aside our differences to share these things with the world.

1...As disciples we should share Jesus's message with the world.

Explanation

Jesus set apart 12 from the larger group to be His apostles. They represented a special group

on whom Jesus established the church.

However, the word "apostle" identifies a simple truth that applied generally to all His disciples then and now.

The word's most simple meaning is a delegate, an ambassador of the Gospel.

“The idea behind the ancient Greek word for apostle is “ambassador.” The Greek word is *apostolos*, which means ‘sent one’. (Pate) It describes someone who represents another and has a message from their sender” (Guzik).

In its simplest form, the word represents the truth of Jesus's desire to continue His work for all His followers.

Application

We are sent by Jesus to share His message with the world.

Though it's not the same Greek word as the word translated "apostle" here, the word Paul uses in 2 Corinthians 5 relates to the meaning of this word.

Bible

(18) And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for

Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 - KJV

Explanation

Paul states that believers are ambassadors for Christ. That is believers are aliens and foreigners in a strange land to act as a representative for their King.

Who is the King? Jesus.

Where are believers aliens and foreigners? The world.

How are believers to act as representatives of the King? Through the ministry (serve, service) and word (speak, speaking) of reconciliation.

Application

We have a message to share with the world committed to us by our King. That message is...

Bible

(19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:19 - KJV

Bible

(18) For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 Peter 3:18 - KJV

Application

As disciples of Jesus, we should share His message with the world.

2...As disciples we should share Jesus's love with the world.

Explanation

After selecting the 12, Jesus "came down with them." He, His 12 apostles, and the company of His other disciples came to a place where people gathered to them from the region about.

Do not miss the phrase "came down with them." As He had been doing, Jesus continued to bring His followers into participation with His work. He could have done the work Himself, but He wanted to draw them to participate with Him in it.

Application

He wants to do so with you. God (the Father), Jesus, and the Spirit can accomplish the work without us, but He wants us to participate - not for His benefit, but for our blessing.

It's a blessing to even be able to participate in His work.

It's a blessing to be able to bring Him glory.

It's a blessing to experience fruit.

He doesn't need us, but He wants us.

Illustration

My children love when I mow the lawn. I know, strange right? I have a self-propelled push mower that I use. Every time I pull it out to do the lawn, my kids want to jump in beside me and push too. Now, I don't need them. I can get along without them. But when I slow down and let them get involved, it's a blessing to them. They enjoy the time with daddy. They like feeling useful and accomplished.

Application

How much more for the child of God who is privileged to go with Him, work with Him, and serve Him!

Explanation

The crowd that gathered came from everywhere. They came from Jerusalem and Judea, strong orthodox Jewish regions. They came from Galilee, the more lax Jewish region. They came from Tyre and Sidon, Gentile cities. They came to hear and be healed by Him, and Jesus worked among them.

Why?

Why give His time and energy to them?

Many in the crowd would someday be those who would turn away and go back from following Him.

Many in the crowd would join the religious leaders in crying out, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him."

Why work among them?

Why teach them?

Why heal them?

He loved them!

Illustration

Last Sunday, I commented about a needy family that our family came in contact with. Several of you asked about helping, for which I am so thankful.

Monday, I received an email from someone who shared that the church they attended for several years in another state avoided people like that because they often take advantage of the church and never visit, become members, or give back.

Application

Aren't you glad that Jesus did not act on the same basis?

Can you imagine if Jesus determined what He would or would not do based on the majority

outcome?

He didn't do that. His actions in the world were motivated by love - the same as ours should be.

He chose us to follow Him, and following Him means sharing His love with others.

The deeper you know His love and love Him, the deeper you will love others.

How are you sharing His love?

3...As disciples we should share Jesus's power with the world.

Explanation

Jesus healed people who had diseases and demons. Everyone who came expecting deliverance of Him received deliverance from Him. Even those who simply touched Him - "there went virtue out of him."

"Virtue" translates the word "dunamis", the word regularly used of God's power.

It mimics what took place when He healed the woman with the issue of blood as recorded in Mark 5:30.

"As Jesus served the needs of others, both in His preaching/teaching work and in miraculous deeds, something went out of Him. It cost Him something to be used of God and to serve others" (Guzik).

Application

Followers of Jesus have the unique opportunity to share His power with the world. I'm not talking about strange, weird, or unbiblical activities that flaunt a deceived and deceiving promotion of Christianity. I am talking about clear evidences of God's power wrought in people's lives.

Have you experienced answered prayer?

Have you experienced miracles?

Have you experienced the demonstrations of God's power in your life?

You can share His power in these simple ways.

Conclusion

Yes, Christians should share. Not in a way where we remind others of their obligation to share with us, but in a way where we recognize our obligation to share Jesus's message, love, and power with others.