

Witness Everywhere

Lesson for Sunday, October 16, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

- Review the vision! Is your class doing better at remembering? Have it displayed where you can read it together as a class aloud several times.
 - Remind them that the vision is what gives us direction as a church.
 - It will also give us direction in our individual relationship and walk with the Lord.
- Who remembers the four steps that will help us realize the vision?
- So far, we have discussed worshipping God and loving others.
 - Does anyone have a testimony of how they have consciously tried to apply these two areas in their lives recently? If so, allow them to share.
- Today we are discussing step 3: Witness Everywhere.

BIBLE STUDY:

The Bible is quite clear that we are to witness everywhere. See how many Scriptures your class can recite from memory that make this point. Consider:

- ⇒ *Go into all the world...Mark 16:15*
- ⇒ *Make disciples of all nations...Matthew 28:19*
- ⇒ *To the end of the earth...Acts 1:8*
- ⇒ *Go out into the highways and hedges...Luke 14:23*

The instructions to witness everywhere are clear. How will we carry it out? What will be our confidence?

1. We Believe in the **Authority** of Christ (Matthew 28:18)
 - a. Jesus gathers His disciples one more time. Notice that He doesn't start with a command; He starts with a claim.
 - b. Jesus's authority is the basis for everything else that follows in this text. Jesus has all power. He is the universal Lord and Savior over all.
 - c. In the Gospels, we read that Jesus has authority over:
 - i. Nature and nations, disease and demons, sin and death.
 - ii. Over every life – including ours!
 - d. The authority of Jesus compels us to go! Going into all the world only makes sense if Jesus's claim is true. His authority means He is worthy of our worship and of our obedience to His command.
 - e. His authority gives us confidence as we go. Who are we to go to as many people as possible, in as many locations as possible, and tell them that they are following false idols, and if they don't turn to Jesus they will die and spend eternity in Hell?
 - i. The world sees this view and narrow and arrogant.
 - ii. But if the Gospel is true, then telling a lost world about Jesus is the only thing that makes sense!
 - iii. What doesn't make sense, is Christians sitting back and saying nothing to anyone.
2. We Obey the **Command** of Christ (Matthew 28:19-20)
 - a. The next words out of Jesus's mouth are, "Go, therefore." He is saying, "In light of My authority, **go!**"
 - b. This is not a comfortable call inviting us to come, be baptized and sit in one location week after week.

- i. We can come to Sunday School, attend services, sing in the choir, and give money all while neglecting Jesus's command to go.
 - ii. Dawson Trotman wrote, "The curse of today is that we are too busy...busy doing Christian things. We have spiritual activity with little productivity."
 - iii. Everything else we do in the life of the church is incidental compared to the supreme task of sharing the Gospel with people who are lost.
 - c. As we go, we...all this comes from the Matthew 28:19-20 text:
 - i. Share the Gospel: We must speak the Gospel – people must hear it.
 - ii. Show the Word: As we win people, we baptize them. Baptism is a picture of the Gospel.
 - iii. Teach the Word: We don't just receive the Word, we reproduce the Word.
 - iv. Serve the World: We are to make disciples of all nations. This is the motivation for world missions, but also reminds us that the Gospel is for every person you come across. You can't witness to the wrong person!
- 3. We Depend on the **Presence** of Christ
 - a. Our mission to witness everywhere is not dependent on who we are and what we can do.
 - b. This mission is based on who Jesus is and what He is able to do in and through our lives.
 - c. We obey the command of Christ because we can depend on the presence of Christ.
 - d. We are not called to save people – that is a work of God. We are simply called to go, tell, and leave the results to God.

APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Out of the four steps, this is arguably the most difficult for people to obey. Why?
- ⇒ Do you feel ready to share the Gospel with others?
 - Talk about how we can witness: literature (carry tracts), learning to present the Gospel (study & practice), etc.
- ⇒ To Do: Invite the class to Monday night visitation.
 - Tell them you will meet them at 6:30 tomorrow night.
 - Assure them you will not embarrass them or put them on the spot.
 - Their best way to learn is to go and observe!