

Following Jesus to the Cross - 3

Do Good, Listen, Pray

Luke 10:25-11:13

Series: Following Jesus To The Cross

- I. Loving people - not condemning (Disciples wanted to call down fire on Samaritan village)
Expect to be rejected (i.e. Samaritans) - but keep loving
Put Jesus in number one place in your life (all else is insignificant) "Follow Me, leave all behind"
 - II. Go where Jesus asks you to go - go in His strength and His wisdom into His harvest field
See results! 72 Disciples were amazed that even the demons listened to them.
 - III. As we go, what are some of the things we ought to be doing?
- * **Do good** Lk 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan Expert in law asked Jesus how he could inherit eternal life.
Jesus asked him what he thought
Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, strength, & mind & neighbor as self
"Go do it." "But who is my neighbor?" Often our excuse. Former church excuse.
A man going from Jerusalem to Jericho - robbed and beaten.
Priest and Levite passed him by
Samaritan - stopped, cared for him, took him to hotel, paid for his care and food
(2 days of wages - a couple of weeks of care) + promise to pay for extra
Went over and beyond
Showed abundant care - part of our abundant life (abounding in good works)
Love is shown by action - at times it is costly
- Jesus did this all the time, as he was ministering, stop where there was a need
* James 2:17 *Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*
* James 2:21-22 *Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.*
- Look for everyday opportunities to show Christ's love
Adopt-A-Cop
International Students - Missions in our back yard
Saving Grace Ministries - Prison ministries
CompassCare - Pregnancy Center
- * **Take time to Listen to Jesus** Lk 10:38-42 Story of Mary & Martha with Jesus
Martha was doing nothing wrong - there were things to do - Jesus plus 12 disciples must be cared for
Mary wanted to take advantage of learning from Jesus - not normal - learning reserved for men
Jesus changed that - saw that Mary's priorities were in right order
* *"Martha was distracted by all the preparations"*
She was busy doing good but missed the opportunity to listen and learn.
Are you so busy working **for** Him that you don't have time to sit **with** Him to listen and learn?
Jesus wants us to do good and to do it well.
Ecclesiasties 9:10 *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might*
However - the good deeds come from sitting at Jesus' feet
Spending time with Jesus, reading, meditating, considering, listening
Sometimes Jesus just wants us to relax,

set aside our worries and urgent responsibilities (“tyranny of the urgent”)
focus on Him

Our actions will be motivated by our faith

* *Ro 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

Our faith is built up by

- sitting at His feet
- seeing the results of our actions (good works)

* *Eph 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

*We can only do those good works if we know Him well enough and have listened to Him.

* **Pray Lk 11:1-13** Ask & it will be given - Holy Spirit

Lu 11:5-8 Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

Lu 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The point of the story is not to tell us that we have to bug God about something until He finally responds.

The point is that God, being so much more a loving Father than we could ever be, is more than willing to give us what we ask, without having to bug Him to death.

* *Lu 11:9,10 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

The kicker is to ask

- in His Name (according to His will)
- with expectation

For everyone who [really] asks receives; he who [really] seeks finds; and to him who [really] knocks, the door will be opened.

Ex. Two of our ladies went out for the day on Friday

Prayed before going out that God would order their day

Nancy and I had the privilege to fall into that order

They were recognized and were amazed at how God led them to certain people throughout the day!

Why? Because they [really] asked in His Name, and expected God to do something!

Did God use them to bring someone to the point of conversion? No - at least not before 3:00 p.m.

Did God use them to minister to people, to show His love to people - absolutely!

The Mission of the Church is to “Go, Make Disciples.”

The responsibility of the church is to equip her people to go make disciples.

In the days to come, we are going to work at equipping each and every one of you how you can do that in your everyday life.

*How you can

Go into His harvest field

Go, doing good as you go

Go, having listened and learned at the feet of Jesus

Go, having prayed in His name and asked, expecting results.

Is it possible?

Absolutely

- if we are obedient to Him

- if we are truly following Him