

No Entanglements

E.T.S.: The text describes how Jesus sent His disciples out two by two throughout Galilee to share the message of God's kingdom.

E.S.S. While the passage does not express that Jesus prescribes this for all His followers all the time, it demonstrates activities and attitudes that we should adopt in relation to ministry and the world.

Christ Follower: Correct any entanglements with the world that hinder you from following Jesus as closely as you should.

Christ Seeker: Believe on Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.

Introduction

Please open your Bible to the ninth chapter of Luke.

Illustration

I want to share a photograph with you. This is a photo I recently snapped at home showing our school setup and what, sometimes, is my office:

Show picture.

I think I snapped this picture while Stephanie was out of the house at an appointment. As you can imagine, we regularly have to work to keep the older three, who are in school, focused. They are easily distracted. Requests for food or breaks, activity outside, other activity inside, etc., all of these tend to distract them from their schooling.

Introduction

We read a verse earlier in the service that relates to the passage we are studying in Luke today. This verse has been on my mind a lot this week as I have meditated on the passage in Luke. Paul wrote this is 2 Timothy 2:4:

(4) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:4 - KJV

Introduction

Writing to his son in the faith, Paul shared wisdom for Timothy himself and for Timothy to share with others. As a church leader, Timothy needed to protect himself from entanglements with the world. Some have taken this to an unbiblical extreme and used it to teach that church leaders should practice celibacy. However, others have not practiced it enough.

I am convicted by this verse. I have questioned so much this week: how often do entanglements affect my ministry and service to Jesus? Or, how many entanglements of this

world are holding me back?

Though, admittedly, to a different extent, entanglements can, and likely do, affect all of us and our ministries and service to Jesus. As we examine our text today, we find Jesus giving His disciples four things, and He wraps this idea of no entanglements within these four things. Though this is descriptive and not prescriptive for us, we can learn from the attitudes and actions found in the text.

Let's read it together and then examine the four things that Jesus gave His disciples.

Bible

(1) Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (2) And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. (3) And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. (4) And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. (5) And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. (6) And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where. (7) Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him: and he was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead; (8) And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again. (9) And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see

him.

Luke 9:1-9 - KJV

Introduction

What four things did Jesus give His disciples?

1...He gave them Prayer (see Matthew 9:35-38)

Explanation

Preaching expositionally necessitates preaching in context. When we are talking about the Gospel accounts, we have to visit the accompanying Gospel passages. For this account in Luke covering nine verses, Matthew contribute forty-six verses.

Let's go to Matthew and read chapter nine, verses 35-38.

Bible

(35) And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (36) But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. (37) Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is

plenteous, but the labourers are few; (38) Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:35-38 - KJV

Explanation

Jesus, Who was moved with compassion because of the needs of the people around Him, told His disciples to pray to the Lord that He would send laborers into His harvest. Some have pointed out that this is the one prayer request that Jesus commanded His followers to pray (viewing the Lord's prayer as a model prayer, rather than a commanded prayer).

Application

Let's begin with this simple application: how regularly do you pray that God would send forth laborers?

Tony Evans described Jesus' command, "Jesus called his disciples—including us—to pray for the recruitment of kingdom-minded workers (9:38)."

Is this a regular part of your prayers?

Charles Spurgeon commented, "He did not say, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, and the laborers are few, but that matters not, God can bless a few, and make them accomplish as much as many.' He believed in His Father's omnipotence, but He also believed that the Lord would work by means, and that many laborers were required to gather in a plenteous harvest, and therefore He told us to pray for them."

Let us pray for God to send more kingdom-minded workers out into His harvest.

Explanation

What are we praying for in that prayer?

The emphasis of the English translation is incapable of producing the emphasis of the Greek language. The language is forcible, as if we are praying that God would push them forward, thrust them out.

Application

This isn't secondary for Jesus; it is primary. It is primary to God. That's why this is so forceful.

Is it that forceful in our prayers?

This is an area where fervent, effectual prayer needs to be practiced.

Do not see this as simply descriptive; it is a prayer for us, a prayer we should pray.

2...He gave them Power (v. 1)

Explanation

This shows up in two ways: *power* and *authority*. This *power* comes from the word regularly used in the Bible to describe divine power. The Bible reveals:

- It is the power that belongs to God (see Matthew 6:13).

- It is the power used to describe miracles (throughout the N.T.).
- It is the power that Jesus will return to earth with (see Matthew 24:30).
- It is also what God provides to His own to enable their service to Him (see Matthew 25:15).
- It is the power that comes to us when the Holy Spirit lives in and fills us (see Acts 1:8).
- It is the power inherent in the Gospel (see Romans 1:16).

Application

Did Jesus fail to give them anything they needed?

How about us?

Explanation

He also provided *authority*. *Authority* identifies the ideas of privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery (concretely magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), or delegated influence.

This regularly speaks of authority in the way it does here; authority over spiritual and physical forces. This is what Jesus claimed for Himself when He commissioned His disciples before returning to Heaven.

Application

For us, we operate in Jesus' authority. Yes, we too have His authority when we minister to and

for Him.

Jesus, Who gave His disciples a task, gave them the power to perform the task. He will do the same for you.

3...He gave them a Purpose (vv. 1-2)

Explanation

He *called* and sent them to *preach*. This was the purpose for the prayer and power.

It is ironic given the prayer of Matthew nine that Jesus now sends them. He just commanded them to pray, and now He sends them.

"This is a prayer we must pray, but we can only pray it honestly if we pray with an ear open to hearing Him tell us, 'You go into the harvest'" (David Guzik).

Application

Understand this. If you pray this, open your ears. God may very well send you.

Explanation

He gave them the purpose and the way to accomplish the purpose.

Where did they preach?

- street corners

- marketplaces
- synagogues
- small groups
- large groups
- one on one

Jesus did not attempt to do everything; He gave them a work to do. He used the resources available.

Application

What about us?

- Is there somewhere we won't go,
- someone we won't preach to,
- or something we won't do or won't use?

4...He gave them a Pronouncement (vv. 3-9)

Explanation

How did Jesus expect them to fulfill this?

- without a walking stick
- without a wallet

- without food
- without money
- without an extra set of clothing
- without a reservation

Again, Matthew 10 includes much more!

What was the point of all this?

In my estimation, it was twofold: to convince them to depend completely on God and no entanglements.

Can you imagine this for the disciples? Go without any guarantees. That's essentially what Jesus said. Dependence on God would be needed.

It would also cause them to avoid entanglements. Their focus would solely be the purpose He gave to them.

Application

This is descriptive meaning that we are being told what Jesus told them, but not necessarily a command for us. I do not think that Jesus means that all of His followers should follow this specific set of commands. However, the attitude and actions needed to enact these commands should be practiced by God's people today.

Should we still depend on God?

Should we avoid entanglements that will cause us to de-prioritize God's call in our lives and the purpose He gives us?

Certainly, we should.

Conclusion

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Christ Seeker: Believe on Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.