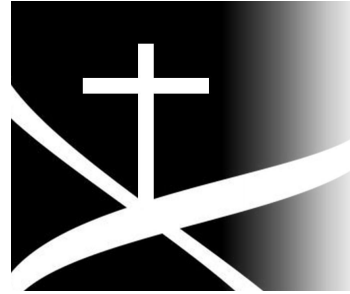


Ancient Future Mission (Week 3): Go and Tell
Yesterday's Sermon - In 10 Sentences or Less

1) Yesterday we covered the 3rd of four major reasons why early Christianity grew so rapidly when it should not have: we summarized that facet of their mission, "Go and Tell."



Ancient Future Mission
• Go and Be
• Go and Love
• **Go and Tell**
• Come and Belong

2) Go and be, go and love, and go and tell (the first three weeks of this series) are linked together by this well-known statement by St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the gospel at all times; use words when necessary." Talking about Christianity to non-Christians means rings hollow without a prior commitment to Christian character and love, but likewise sometimes that telling is necessary.

3) We spent time yesterday reflecting on the single most well-known statement about Christian mission in the New Testament - Matthew 28.18-20, called The Great Commission.

4) In short, what we see is that we who are disciples of Jesus invite others into the same process of being Jesus' disciples (interestingly, this was also the apostle Paul's strategy - disciples who generate more disciples; see 2 Timothy 2.2).

5) Disciple is better, more substantial word for those of us who identify with Jesus, as opposed to the more superficial terms "believers" or even "Christians."

6) Disciples are students: humble, aware of their own incompleteness, more about questions than answers, keenly aware of both their admiration and need of their Teacher.

7) Obedience to what Christ taught is the key distinguisher of a disciple. Obedience is not a heavy or burdensome concept, but rather something that frees us to experience true happiness and our real selves.

8) As disciples, we go and tell others about the only authority worth our highest, deepest, and greatest allegiance – Jesus. No other commitment of ours should compete with or can measure up to this one.

9) Brian McLaren encapsulates the mission of the church in three short words - "More, Better Disciples."

10) David Kinnaman, in his book "unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity... and Why It Matters" writes, "Most people in America, when they are exposed to the Christian faith, are not being transformed. They take one step into the door, and the journey ends. They are not being allowed, encouraged, or equipped to love or to think like Christ. Yet in many ways a focus on spiritual formation fits what a new generation is really seeking. Transformation is a process, a journey, not a one-time decision. Transformation only occurs through discipleship."

D. More This Week

- 1) Few have talked about discipleship better in the last 50 years than the late Dallas Willard. Check out these two articles by him - [Who is Our Teacher?](#) and [The New Testament Picture of Discipleship](#)
- 2) Also from Renovare, a great piece on how our own personal discipleship and spiritual experience is closely linked telling others about Christ - [Our Role and God's Role in Missions - Mekdes Haddis](#)
- 3) A great devotional that will offer solace and guidance about the dreaded "e word," evangelism - [The E Word](#)
- 4) And another insightful devotional about how younger generations won't accept anything but real, authentic evangelism - [Evangelism for Millennials](#)
- 5) Practical pointers on how to engage in spiritual conversations with others - [How to Talk About Jesus Without Being Awkward](#) and [How Do I Tell My Friends About Jesus?](#)
- 6) For those who want to dig more, check out this page of resources from The Lewis Center for Church Leadership - [evangelism](#)

E. Praying this Week

- 1) Pray about being open to "going and telling," especially about your own experience of being Jesus' disciple to someone who might want to join in the same journey.
- 2) You can use this prayer from the end of yesterday's service this week (you can change the plural pronouns to singular - "we" to "I" and such)...

Adapted from PCUSA Worship Resources for Evangelism:

Loving God, open new doors for Your good news. Reopen doors that have been closed. Help us not be silent about the example of Christ, and help us live as He lived before a watching world. Make us Your witnesses in all we say and all we do.

May we faithfully scatter the seed of Your gospel to all around. May these efforts fall on fertile soil, and may we not be discouraged when they do not. Allow us to see a fraction of the fruits of our labor in our lifetime. And encourage us along the way so that we will be faithful to our mission as Your ambassadors of reconciliation in the world.

We are Your witnesses through whom others will come to believe in Your power and love. And we are Your disciples, who are being transformed by Your truth and who offer others the same life-altering opportunity. To this we have been called, to this we will be committed, and for this we will endure. We ask all this through the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior of all, amen.