

Greetings everyone. “At The Sound of the Trumpet” will cover encouraging everyone in their ministry. A part of ministry is of course service. From this lesson, we will learn the importance of service and being useful for God.

Service

Please read Matthew 5:1-16

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.” Matthew 5:14

God has created us to serve. We exist not by chance, but because He desired for us to be here. Everything has been ordained and planned by God. We are all given special gifts, talents, and the ability to use them for Him.

In Matthew chapter five, Jesus begins a sermon that starts with our character. Often people look at Matthew 5:3-12, which are called the Beatitudes, and try to point out the one closest to their character. This is not so. All Christians should exhibit all of the beatitudes which is no different than all Christians should have all of the fruits of the Spirit, (Galatians 5:22-23). God is revealing to us what it takes to become a complete person.

There will be moments when we show certain beatitudes at various times depending on the situation at hand. There are times where we have to be humble or comforted when we cry. We have to be meek and have a desire to build a stronger relationship with God. Sometimes we have to learn mercy and other moments the value of being pure.

Jesus especially wanted His disciples to hear this because they were actively working for Him. Granted, they were new and needed a lot of training, but they were active for God. No matter where we are, God can always use us. He will make sure to put us in the best possible situation to serve Him and experience success.

For example, if a person is new with the Bible, then God will not expect them to expound on all of the details of the Pauline epistles to a group of scholars in Cambridge. Instead, if a person only knows “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,” Genesis 1:1, then He will put them in a place and time where they can share that knowledge with someone else. A friend might feel worthless because of the belief that humans are here by accident. However, by stating that God created everything, it puts hope in them that they are here for a purpose and this one encounter can change their life in a positive way.

With one text alone, a person can help millions of people, depending on how God uses them. The problem is not God, but us, who sometimes feel like our own problems will get in the way of the Master Creator’s plans. The Lord has specifically made us so we can be of use to people.

Christ starts the sermon by giving examples of Christian character and then goes into a metaphor of service to the world. In this chapter we will focus more on how Jesus went into detail about us being the light of the world, (Matthew 5:14-16). This was the second metaphor used by Jesus as an example for people to spread the gospel.

Jesus wants us to shine for all people to see. He has placed a gift inside each person that was never meant to be hid, but to be shown for the entire world. Every single person born in this world has gifts that range from performance to being behind the scenes.

God Himself is the ultimate light source; we are to reflect that light to the world. Very much as the sun, which has its own method of taking fire and heat and making light, so does, God have His own glory and love to shine to the world. This love, like fire, is a powerful light for all those in darkness. What Jesus desires is the means to reflect this light to all people in the world.

In the solar system, our Moon reflects light from the Sun to the Earth. People who live in cities do not really get the full effect of a full moon lighting the streets because of the city lights that creates a glowing haze around the metropolitan area. However, in the country a full moon can light up the countryside. No, it is not as bright as the sun itself but it's enough that a person can see where they are going with careful steps. In addition, the moon is also a reminder that as long as it's glowing then the sun must be around and will return soon to light up the sky.

The same is with us. God has us as little moons for the world covered in darkness. On our own, we cannot shine the light, nor do we have the means. However when we get into the right spot, we can shine fully the love and message of Jesus to the world. Because it is reflecting off us, it is not perfect nor is it up to par as far as the heat and brightness of Jesus. All God asks is that we tell people of His soon return, (Matthew 28:18-20, Ezekiel 33:1-9). Much like the moon reveals that the sun is still operating and will be back around again, so we can reveal that Jesus is still working in the world and is soon to return.

We, being the light of the world, can be a reminder of God's love. Not necessarily on a global scale, but in our jobs, schools, families, neighborhoods, and even at church. We can affect the world by professing the name of Jesus not only with our mouths, but also in our lives and actions, (James 2:18-20). How we reflect Christ is how people will understand Him to be. Meaning, if we are overbearing and unapproachable then we show Christ as having similar qualities. Sometimes if we are judgmental, so people believe that Christ is the same way. Others think that Jesus is cliquish because we are like that. Then there are some instances when we force Jesus to people against their own will, and they believe that God is a demanding and forceful Being who takes away the power of choice.

All of these examples are errors in reflecting the character of God. We are not to force people, judge others, nor become overbearing. We must allow the Spirit to bring about conversion, not us. Remember that we do not have a Heaven to give them. It's not ours in the sense that we created it, but we can become tour guides and maps to our fellow brethren to Heaven as we travel along the way.

Our goal is to become like John the Baptist during the time of Christ living on Earth. "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light that, all men through him might believe. He was not the Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light," John 1:6-8. Just like John, we are here to bear witness of the light of the world by showing our light that God has placed inside of us. We are not the light itself. God is the reason why we are here, not we ourselves. Living in a world full of evil and darkness, people are searching everywhere to see. The Lord is using Christians to guide others to Him so their paths, like ours, can be illuminated.

God desires us to shine our light, because the enemy is waiting to steal His lost sheep. "For I am not pleased with the death of anyone who dies," says the Lord God. "So be sorry for your sins and turn away from them, and live," Ezekiel 18:32 (NLV). The Lord loves all people so no one is lost. It pains Him to see even one person not make it to Heaven.

“For His anger endureth but a moment; in His favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning,” Psalms 30:5. God desires us to show the world joy. Right now while in darkness, it is hard to see when this will end. We as people do things that are wrong, because we are lost and feel like we are left to our own devices. Nevertheless, God is calling His people to put an end to this faulty line of thinking. He wants all people to have a chance at eternal life, (Ezekiel 33:11).

God’s method of spreading His message of love is through us. Yes, we are imperfect beings with problems of our own, and we ourselves are trying to get to Heaven as well. However, God loves being able to use Divinity mixed in with humanity as a means of reaching all people. Jesus showed this in the ultimate sacrifice of becoming human while being fully Divine. His life was a constant example to all people through the ages in Heaven and Earth that when both sides come together amazing and marvelous things will happen.

The Lord has called people to allow themselves to be mixed with the Divine nature, not in the same way as Mary, mother of Jesus, but as light bearers like John the Baptist to spread the message of a gospel we should not be ashamed of, (Romans 1:16). Angels will not complete the work of spreading the message to the world. If God wanted the work accomplished by angels, He would have dispatched them already. Sometimes God sends Angels to help His people. The Lord has called us as people to do the work, and believing that another person or being will do it is laziness and goes against God’s principle.

The Lord has a variety of ways of being able to spread His gospel to the world. The most common way we think of is through preaching and singing. However, to some are given the gift of prophesy and discernment. Others are able to organize and have the gift of hospitality. Some people can love unconditionally or others have a natural ability to draw in children and youth. Several people will be given the power to heal, while others will have a stronger temperance so they can be examples to others.

A few are called to be local leaders or disciples in our cities. Others will have to take their message to other states and some to lands across the world. We are not here to judge one another, but realize that every person is called to do something for God. The amount of people that is lead to Baptism is not important, as long as we are doing what Christ has called us to do.

God is ecstatic when we choose to have our light shine for all people. We are the candlestick and He will light us with his Spiritual fire. As we go about spreading God’s message, our light will light other candlesticks that are connected to Christ while we never lose our own power. Then these people will go and do the same, and it is all because we were more than willing to let our light shine and be of use.

Jesus said when responding to His disciples on the events of the end of the world, “The Good News about the holy nation of God must be preached over all the earth. It must be told to all nations and then the end will come,” Matthew 24:14 (NLV). Yes throughout the 24th chapter of Matthew there are warnings of plagues, problems, iniquity, wars, and various other bad situations that will arise. However, these are all signs of the end. The truth is that Jesus will return when the Gospel will be preached over the entire world.

Jesus wants us to go out into our communities, cities, and even the world because all people should have an opportunity to know God. By spreading the good news of Jesus return, we would have done our part, and will have to wait for God’s soon return.

We must remember not to treat it like the crusades. Forcing people to love the Lord is not His plan. We error when we try to force people to love the Lord. God is all-powerful and if he wanted to force obedience, He would have done so already. Instead, He decided to die for our sins so that we can choose Him. Life everlasting is available to all; however, many will not choose that path. All we can do is leave them in God's hands and hope they will reconsider God before it is too late. He only requires that we do our job for Him.

It is almost like a check mark system in that God desires for the entire world to be saved. Not all people will choose Him. Our job is to make sure that each person on Earth has the right amount of information and knowledge about the true nature and character of Christ. People must be able to witness and explore the love of Jesus for themselves so they can accurately make the decision to follow or not. The hard job of converting will only come by the means and power of the Holy Spirit.

God will provide the means for all people to do His will. We have a system called the internet, which allows us to provide information and knowledge to all people from around the world. We have the Olympic Games, the World Cup in various sports, and many other attractions that brings the world together in one place for peace. The United Nations is a worldwide organization set on uplifting peace and prosperity of life to all nations. The list goes on about what we have at our disposal to be able to get the Gospel of Christ to the world.

The disciples on boats, horseback and just their sandals reached most of the known world because of their strong desire to reach all people about the soon return of Jesus. God led them to go to certain key people so they would spread it in their own nation.

For example, Philip was used by God to spread the message of Christ to the Ethiopians, (Acts 8:26-40). Paul was sent to various countries and cities around the world to spread the gospel to leaders and citizens. In spite of various groups trying to stop them, the light of Jesus Christ still shined through the entire world and even now, in various cultures and countries where Christianity is not practiced; there are still certain moral beliefs that are inherited in their society.

God has called us to be a light bearer for Him. There is a fire on the inside that will shine through, but only if we allow God to use the talents and skills He has blessed us with. Sometimes we do not believe we have talents, but we all do. God has not created anybody without some type of skill.

We need to look at what comes naturally. Is it gift-giving or entertaining people at your home? Some have a higher affinity for people, or can teach complicated ideas clearly. Inside of others is the desire to take care of children effortlessly, or we might have the gift of music and art. We should ask co-workers, friends, schoolmates, church members, and even family what they see in us. This might help us see what talents and abilities we may have.

As you begin to mature in Christ, the Lord will start to use you with these gifts and others that He will give you as you proceed in life. Soon, just as you thought you had none, now you have two, five, ten, or more and all are being used for Jesus.

The light that you shine is not your own, but the power of God dwelling inside of you. Let it glow. Do not hide or cover it up, but let others see it, because just like you do not have the desire to live in darkness, neither do they.

Build a firm foundation by knowing and acting on the fact, that God has not created you by accident, but you are here with a purpose. Your purpose is to serve the Lord, and by doing so, your life will be enhanced more than you can imagine.

Quoted Scripture

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth

John 1:6-8 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light

Ezekiel 18:32 For I am not pleased with the death of anyone who dies (NLV)

Psalms 30:5 Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning

Matthew 24:14 The Good News about the holy nation of God must be preached

Scripture for Future Study

Ezekiel 33:1-9 A watchmen for God

Ezekiel 33:11 God desires for all people to live

Matthew 5:3-12 Beatitudes

Matthew 5:14-16 We are the Light of the world

Matthew 24 Signs of Christ return

Matthew 28:18-20 Tell people of Jesus soon return

Romans 1:16 Not ashamed of the Gospel

Galatians 5:22-23 Fruits of the Spirit

James 2:14-26 Faith with works

STUDY GUIDE

1.) Name a reason why we are created?

FOTF

Write out the beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-12. When or how can you exhibit each one?

verse 3 _____

verse 4 _____

verse 5 _____

verse 6 _____

verse 7 _____

verse 8 _____

verse 9 _____

verse 10 _____

verse 11 _____

2.) In this chapter there is an example by using Genesis 1:1 and how it can be used to teach someone. Give one text you know or like and how you can use that to teach someone.

3.) What example is given as those who are to shine the light on the world?
FOTF

4.) What character trait do you have that reflects God to people?

5.) What characteristics can we have that will negatively influence those we are trying to represent God to?
FOTF

6.) What was John the Baptist mission? How is this similar to the current job for the Church to the World?
John 1:6-8, FOTF

7.) What is something that God is not pleased? What is His desire?
Ezekiel 18:32, FOTF

8.) What is God's plan for spreading His message? What is the example He gave to us?
FOTF

9.) Will angels complete the job?
FOTF

10.) When talking about the end of the world, what did Jesus say to His disciples? What is the true symbol or time when the end will come?
Matthew 24:14, FOTF

11.) What method should we not use and why?
FOTF

12.) What will God provide for people to be successful? What advancements has been given to this generation to tell about the love of Christ and His soon return to the world?
FOTF

PERSONAL STUDY

1.) What talents do you have and what things do you enjoy doing?

2.) What possible service/job do you believe God is calling you to do? What steps can you take to about fulfilling that calling?

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