

Luke 5:27-39

One Liner of the Week

“If our hearts are not burdened for the lost, it is an indication that we are not as close to Jesus as we think we are.”

Food for the Soul

M: Matthew 5:1-20

T: Matthew 5:21-32

W: Matthew 5:33-48

T: Matthew 6:1-15

F: Matthew 6:16-34

S: Matthew 7:1-12

S: Matthew 7:13-29

Discussion Guide

January 28, 2024
Sermon Synopsis

It seems that everyone loves a good celebration and there are many things in life that we celebrate - the birth of a child, the birthdays that follow, personal accomplishments, holidays, championships, etc. While there are many things that we celebrate, very few of these celebrations have lasting impact on our lives. However, when it comes to the greatest reason to celebrate, we find that it not only impacts our lives on earth but also in eternity. There is no greater celebration than the one described in this week's message. We invite you to listen, to join in the celebration, and invite others to do the same!

Items for Discussion

Evangelism is essential to the Christian life.

Group Question #1

When a person is genuinely saved, they are never the same as they were before. The person and work of Jesus, the Christ, not only has as a goal the once for all time complete removal of enmity between the Christian and God the Father, but also the ongoing and ever-increasing richness and holiness of living that comes from knowing and abiding in Jesus. Jesus, by the power of His Holy Spirit, does that to varying degrees and varying speeds in the lives of all those who are united to God through Him. It must happen. It cannot not happen. Christians are people who have genuine affections for Christ and desire to live, as the Puritans of old would have articulated it, "all of life for the glory of God." But, moral correction and solemn piety are not the full expression of what it means to live holly! Yes, real repentance and reverence toward God is part of the equation, but not the whole. Those are activities of the Holy Spirit focused on the "inner man". But what do these workings of the Spirit on the inner man produce outwardly, toward the lost world? A lively love for Christ, on the part of the Christian, produces a yearning to make Christ known to other people around them. Love for Christ is manifested, in large measure, through our own evangelism. As a group, read Romans 10:14-17 and discuss the necessity of living and proclaiming the Gospel ("the word of Christ") to those around you.

Group Question #2

As you and your group read this important text in Romans 10:14-17, you may have noticed that Paul, the Apostle of Christ who wrote these words under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, asks "How are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?" The Apostle, then, goes on to say "faith comes by hearing" and "hearing through the word of Christ". Focus your groups upon these two sentences. As human beings, we cannot know anything in the intellectual sense without being exposed to that thing by means of our senses. As soon as a person receives any kind of information, we must, by necessity, act upon that information in some way. We are never neutral to information. If I am unaware that a semi-truck is coming toward me at 75mph and nobody tells me, I will remain indifferent to the threat and be, well, you know... But if I am warned, I will react to that information in some way. I'll scream and run for my life, maybe. Or, I'll hiss at the warning and meet my doom. Such is the case as it has respect unto the Gospel. The Christians duty is to proclaim the "word of Christ" and trust the results to the power of the Spirit of God who "does all things rightly." But what, exactly, is the "word of Christ"? As a group, read and discuss 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. The same writer, Paul, declares the answer to the previous question.

Group Question #3

Your group has just explored a crucial passage for understanding the essence of true evangelism. Consider the profound message in 1 Corinthians 2:2, where Paul emphasizes knowing only "Christ and Him crucified." This highlights that the Gospel goes beyond the simple narrative of "Jesus died for our sins"; it embodies Christ Himself, His being, and His actions. The Gospel is not a formula or a ritual; it is the living person of Jesus, encompassing all that He is and does, promising life now and beyond. Authentic evangelism is deeply rooted in a comprehensive understanding and relationship with Jesus Christ, as He is the core of our message. In your discussions, focus on how the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels, reveal Christ's identity and works, urging a deep and engaging exploration of these texts to truly grasp who Jesus is.