

There is Work to be Done!

Sermon Series Part 1

The Highways and Byways

Sunday, July 23, 2023

There's work to be done and time is running out. I believe that the Lord is asking many within the church today. "Why are you standing around?"

Why Are You Standing Around?

Matthew 20:1-7 – "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard... About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing... He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

John 20:6-7 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

Jesus is asking the Church today...

Why are you standing around? There is work to be done.

Jesus Christ was busy about the work of the kingdom.

John 9:4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."

Jesus has called you and me to join Him in that work.

John 20:21 "...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

- God has called every believer to work through the church in the world.

The Great Commission of the Church - Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying,

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

JESUS IS THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL!

What is the Mission of God's Church?

1. TO PREACH THE CROSS

John 12:32 –“ And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

- In this passage, Jesus communicated that the Message of the Cross would be the “draw” for the lost.

Psalms 127:1a – “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.”

- It’s our responsibility to preach the Gospel. It’s the Lord’s responsibility to build His Church!

2. TO WIN THE LOST

Luke 14:23 - “Go ye into the highways and by-ways and compel them to come in...”

- The highways and by-ways are wherever the lost are.
- The Parable of the Great Banquet

Luke 14:16-34 “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses.”

1. ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’
2. ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’
3. ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

Luke 14: 21

“The servant reported back to the host and told him of all their excuses. So the master became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go at once throughout the city and invite anyone you find—the poor, the blind, the disabled, the hurting, and the lonely—and invite them to my banquet.’ TPT

Luke 14:22-23

“When the servant returned to his master, he said, ‘Sir, I have done what you’ve asked, but there’s still room for more.’ “So the master told him, ‘All right. Go out again, and this time bring them all back with you. Persuade the beggars on the streets, the outcasts, even the homeless. Urgently insist that they come in and enjoy the feast so that my house will be full.’ TPT

Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-15) – You must be born again! (3:7)

The Ten Virgins (Matt. 25:1-13) – The Message must be GET READY... Jesus is coming!

3. TO MAKE DISCIPLES

A Disciple is a fully devoted and developing follower of Jesus Christ.

- The twelve qualities of a good disciple are Go, Teach, Love God, Love Others, Stand Out, Deny Oneself, Be Firm in the Word, Fellowship with Other Believers, Be Imitators of Christ, Stay Devoted, Remain Steadfast, and Live on Mission.

Jesus said, “If any man will come after me...”

Matt. 16:24 – Then said Jesus unto his disciples, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Mark 8:34 – And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Luke 9:23 – And he said to them all, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

THE GREAT COMMISSION IS THE MISSION OF GOD’S CHURCH!

- Distractions abound, but the main thing must remain the main thing!