

Stepping Out

FBC's Fall Focus: "Unite"

Week of October 11th, 2009

Fall Focus Update

As we enter into week three of our Fall Focus we will explore the power of uniting together in service. The truth is that the world is dying to see a different kind of Christianity than the one often portrayed in the media. What would happen if Christians banded together in acts of sacrificial service to their cities or towns? The impact would be far reaching.

Next Sunday at FBC will mark the midway point of our Fall Focus. On that Sunday we will be introducing the SHARE Plan, a practical initiative designed to enable groups of Christians to make a difference together in their town or city. The idea is that together we can have a greater impact than the sum of our individual parts. We hope you will plan on joining us for this exciting morning at FBC.

Finally, this week we want to recommend the article, *How the Kingdom Comes* by Michael Horton. It can be found on the web at: http://www.christianvisionproject.com/2006/01/how_the_kingdom_comes.html. Or you can Google "How the Kingdom Comes." May God bless your study of his Word as you interact with the Scrolls this week.

Monday – Two by Two

"In all matters, before beginning, a diligent preparation should be made." Cicero, 1st c. BC Roman philosopher

1. Please read Luke 10:1-11. What did Jesus do in verses 1-2? What did Jesus say about the spiritual climate of these towns?
2. Why do you think Jesus sent them out two by two, rather than alone?
3. Read John 17:20-21. According to Jesus, what does the world need to see in Christians? If the watching world is to see this, what must we as believers do?

Making it Personal: The way our culture thinks of Christianity today is often formed by media news reports. What would happen instead if our culture observed Christians united together in serving their cities and towns? Who could you unite with in service to your community?

Tuesday – Vulnerability

"When we were children, we used to think that when we were grown-up we would no longer be vulnerable. But to grow up is to accept vulnerability... To be alive is to be vulnerable." Madeleine L'Engle, American writer

1. Please read Luke 10:1-11 (focusing on 3-4). How did Jesus make his followers more vulnerable than they would usually be on a trip? Why do you think he did so?
2. Faith and risk go together. We cannot grow in our faith without venturing out into risk-filled endeavors. Read Luke 10:17-18 to see how their risk-filled trip turned out. How did their vulnerability & risk contribute to their experience of joy?

Making it Personal: Are you or someone you know vulnerable right now? Ask God to provide for you or to use you in providing for the needs of those around you who may be at risk.

Wednesday – Hospitality

"What is there more kindly than the feeling between host and guest?" Aeschylus, 6th-5th c. BC Greek playwright

1. Please read Luke 10:1-11 (focusing on 5-7). Why do you think Jesus told his followers not to move around?

Text Insight: In that culture, it was considered an honor to be able to provide hospitality to travelers.

2. In Acts 28:7-10 read about the hospitality Paul and his companions were shown. Describe the give and take that took place between Paul and his hosts (i.e. Publius and the island community). Why is true hospitality an act of both giving and receiving?

Making it Personal: Has God been prompting you to be hospitable to someone? Or perhaps he is prompting you to accept someone's hospitality. Ask the Lord to guide you in these relationships.

Thursday – Staying Focused

"You have to block everything out and be extremely focused and be relaxed and mellow too." Jennifer Capriati, American tennis champion

1. Please read Luke 10:8-9. How are Jesus' followers to respond to the hospitality provided to them? Why do you think Jesus told them to minister to both spiritual needs and physical needs?
2. Describe Paul's focus for ministry in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How did Paul summarize his efforts in 2 Timothy 4:6-8?
3. Now look at Philippians 1:3-6. What does this tell you about your own likelihood of finishing well? Why?

Prayer Focus: Pray that God's people will stay focused on serving those around them and telling them the good news about Jesus' kingdom.

Friday – Unwelcome Grace

"How many are quite unworthy to see the light, and yet the day dawns." Seneca, 1st c. Roman statesman

1. Please read Luke 10:10-11. What did Jesus tell his followers to do for those who did not welcome them? How is God's grace shown to those people at the end of verse 11?
2. How did Jesus describe spreading the good news about him in Matthew 13:1-9?
3. Now read Jesus' explanation in Matthew 13:18-23. Do you think a farmer would purposefully cast seed in areas known to be bad for growing crops? What do you learn of the nature of God that he would do so?

Making it Personal: How do you feel about God using you to reach those around you? Why?

For the Weekend: Read Luke 10:1-20. What does verse 2 tell you about the need for us to take part in God's work? How do verses 17 and 20 help you understand Jesus' view of the work we do for him?