

Digging Deeper During the Week!

God grows His Church by **reaching the lost!** As we discover what it takes to be ‘on mission’ and reach the lost, pray that God will transform your heart and make it passionate to grow our church!

Monday Reaching the Lost Means Forsaking All!
21-Apr Luke 5.1-11

Reaching the lost involves a mindset of total obedience to the whim of Jesus. Watch in this passage as Peter learns this lesson for the first time.

- In the early morning Jesus approaches the tired fisherman on the shore of Galilee as crowds follow Him. What does Jesus ask of Peter once He is done teaching? What is Peter’s objection? (1-5)
- What is the result when Peter obeys Jesus’ seemingly crazy request to drop the nets? (6) Jesus tells Peter that the principle for ‘fishing for men’ is the same as fishing for fish – obedience to His every whim. Peter then left all to follow Jesus! What can you learn from this?

Tuesday Reaching the Lost Means Living for Christ!
22-Apr 2 Corinthians 5.12-17

If we are to remain ‘on mission’ and reach the lost, we must be empowered every day with the heart and will of Jesus!

- There is an inner motivation which comes from being close to Christ – Paul describes this in verse 14. What is the source of this power? In sharing the ‘Good News’ there is a specific message about Jesus found in verses 14-15a. What are the elements of this message?
- Paul declares the life-change that must happen if we are to be effective in reaching the lost in verse 15b. What must our lifestyle change from? What must it change to? What will this do in us (18)?

Wednesday Reaching the Lost Means Being His Ambassador
23-Apr 2 Corinthians 5.18 – 6.1

Reaching the lost means that we are imitating the reconciliation we have experienced from God in our daily ministry.

- Reconciliation – what does that word mean? What has God done for us in this process of reconciliation (18-19) What are the components of this reconciliation process (19)? How would you personalize these components and apply them to your relationships?

- The components of reconciliation mentioned before are the necessary applications in becoming an ambassador of Jesus Christ. We are entrusted with ‘Good News’ – how does Paul describe the ‘Good News?’ How can that help you share it?

Thursday Reaching the Lost Means Doing Good Works!
24-Apr Matthew 5.13-16

If we are to have an impact in the lives of the lost, we must touch their lives with the love of Jesus Christ in tangible ways.

- When Jesus describes our ministry of ‘good works’ among the lost, he calls us to become salt and light. What do these things do and how does Jesus apply those uses to our working good (13-14)?
- What is a common mistake of people in churches when it comes to doing good works in their communities (15)? How are we supposed to work in our communities – what should happen as a result (16)?

Friday Reaching the Lost Means Proclaiming God’s Praises!
25-Apr 1 Peter 2.9-12

Peter tells us that reaching the lost requires a verbal and visual witness.

- Since we are selected by God as His ambassadors, we are to express His love and proposition to the lost. What are we to proclaim (9)? What have we obtained from Jesus (10)? How does this affect our lives and witness?
- If we are to be effective witnesses, we must live in a certain manner – what is that manner (11-12)? How will this help our witness?

Saturday Reaching the Lost Means Giving a Hopeful Answer!
26-Apr 1 Peter 3.13-17

A life of hope in Christ is a powerful answer to the lost around us!

- The life in Christ brings so many positive benefits. Few can challenge the good God does for us when they can see it. What is the key to being fearless if we are challenged (14-15a)?
- Peter speaks of two actions each witness must complete if they wish to be effective with the lost (15)? What are these (the first one was mentioned above in the last question)? How will some preparation of an answer for our hope in Christ help our witness? What is the lifestyle action that brings the power to our witness (16)? How can we walk in such a manner as to have a good conscience?

*“I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.” **Philippians 3:13 (NLT)***

© Dr. Matthew Lee Smith, 2008