

START WITH WHAT YOU KNOW

(Matthew 9: 35-10: 8)

Intro: In April we adopted a new Mission Statement.

-Responding to God's love,

#We faithfully:

*Welcome.

*Worship.

*Grow.

*Witness.

*Serve.

We also adopted four Guiding Principles.

-Jesus is Lord and Savior.

-Faith unites us.

-We care for church and world.

-Everyone is welcome.

I. Jesus Had A Mission Statement.

A. Our Gospel Lesson For Today.

1. Begins with Jesus' Mission Statement.

a. One of two such summary statements in Matthew's Gospel.

-Matthew 4:23.

-Matthew 9:35.

b. It says:

- "Jesus went about all the cities and villages,"

"Teaching in their synagogues,"

"Proclaiming the good news of the kingdom,"

"And curing every disease and every sickness."

2. Our Mission Statement:

a. Welcome.

b. Worship.

c. Grow.

d. Witness.

e. Serve.

3. Jesus' Mission Statement:

a. Teaching.

b. Proclaiming.

c. Healing.

- B. Jesus Recruited 12 Disciples To Help With His Mission.
1. Jesus' mission was not a one-man operation.
 - a. Any more than ours is.
 - b. It was more than one person could accomplish on his own.
 2. Jesus asked his disciples to pray.
 - a. For help.
 - b. For helpers.
 - "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."
 - "Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
 - #Matthew 9:38.
 - c. Just like that their prayers were answered.
 3. Jesus sent them out.
 - a. They were themselves the answer to their own prayer.
 - b. They joined Jesus in his mission.
 - It wasn't their mission.
 - It was Jesus' mission.
 - # "Cure the sick."
 - # "Raise the dead."
 - # "Cleanse the lepers."
 - # "Cast out demons."
 4. Jesus gave them certain Guiding Principles.
 - a. "Go nowhere among the Gentiles,"
 - b. "Enter no town of the Samaritans,
 - c. "But go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- C. Jesus And His Disciples Started With What They Knew.
1. Jesus' Guiding Principles may sound to our ears like exclusivity.
 - a. Matthew 15:21-28.
 - Jesus is in the region of Tyre and Sidon.
 - #Gentile territory.
 - Canaanite woman.
 - #Asks Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter.
 - Jesus says:
 - # "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
 - *Matthew 15:24.
 - b. Matthew 10:6.
 - Jesus sends his disciples:
 - # "Only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
 2. Was Jesus' mission?
 - a. Exclusive.
 - b. Discriminatory.
 - c. Biased.
 - d. Prejudiced.

3. Or was Jesus simply starting with what he knew?
 - a. He began by teaching in the synagogues.
 - But by the time Matthew writes his Gospel.
#@80-90 A.D.
 - Those synagogues are "their" synagogues.
#Matthew 9:35.
 - Mission has moved beyond:
#Synagogues.
#Lost sheep of the house of Israel.
 - b. Jesus may have been sent:
 - “Only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
#Matthew 15:24.
 - But he heals the Canaanite woman’s daughter.
#Matthew 15:28.
4. Jesus’ disciples were to start with what they knew.
 - a. “Lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
-Matthew 10:6.
 - b. But by the end of Matthew’s Gospel.
 - Jesus sends them to make disciples of all nations.
#Matthew 28:19.
 - c. But they start with what they know.

II. We Have Been Called To Be Part Of Jesus’ Mission.

A. We Start With What We Know.

1. It’s not our mission.
 - a. It’s Jesus’ mission.
 - b. But like Jesus’ disciples.
 - Answer to our prayers:
#For the mission.
#For the church.
#For the kingdom of God.
 - May be:
#You.
#Me.
2. Since we adopted our new Mission Statement in April.
 - a. Church Council has been wondering:
 - “What is this going to look like for us?”
 - “How are we going to embody these words?”
 - “How are we going to put these words into practice?”

- b. In May I went to an informational lunch.
 - About a program called ShareFest.
 - #Started in Little Rock, Arkansas.
 - #Now in over 20 locations in the United States.
 - *Oklahoma City.
 - *Now come to Tulsa.
 - #Ecumenical venture.
 - *Churches of all different denominations.
 - +Join together in witness on one day.
 - =November 1.
 - +To serve the community.
 - =Each congregation in its own way.
 - #I don't know yet.
 - *If we're going to have something going on November 1.
 - But what I brought back from that luncheon is this counsel:
 - #Start with what you know.
 - #Start with what you're already doing.
- c. Our Helping Hands Food Pantry is one thing we're already doing.
 - That's why I spent part of a morning last month with:
 - #Barbara James.
 - #Eileen Imwalle.
 - *To learn more about:
 - +What we're doing.
 - +How it works.
 - That's why I've been encouraging you.
 - #To spend part of a Tuesday.
 - *With Barbara and Eileen.
 - #To learn more about this often-invisible ministry.
 - *Witness.
 - *Service.
 - I don't know:
 - #Where this may go.
 - #How this will grow.
 - But we start with what we know.
 - #That's Jesus' first Guiding Principle.

B. We Give As We Have Received.

1. That's Jesus' second Guiding Principle.
 - a. "You have freely received, freely give."
 - b. Matthew 10:8.
2. Jesus doesn't simply "Talk the Talk," he "Walks the Walk."
 - a. He freely gave:
 - His love.
 - His life.

- b. He freely gives:
 - His mercy.
 - His forgiveness.
- c. He freely gives:
 - Daily bread.
 - Bread of life.
- 3. Jesus' disciples were called to freely give what they had freely received.
 - a. Jesus disciples had not been to:
 - Bible college.
 - Seminary.
 - b. They were:
 - Fishermen.
 - Tax collectors.
 - Who knows what else.
 - c. At least some of them were illiterate.
 - Acts 4:13.
 - d. But it was Jesus' mission.
 - Not theirs.
 - Jesus used this motley collection of followers.
 - #To pass on what they had received from him.
- 4. Jesus uses us to pass on what we have received.
 - a. Sometimes we might have the notion.
 - We must be specially educated.
 - We must be well spoken.
 - #But the mission of Jesus.
 - #Our mission.
 - *Not just to talk the talk.
 - +Teaching.
 - +Preaching.
 - *But to walk the walk.
 - +Caring.
 - +Serving.
 - =Which is the basis of healing.
 - *One of the most influential books in my life.
 - +Two Ways of Caring.
 - =By William Hulme.
 - My graduate school professor.
 - =Book no longer in print.
 - +My favorite quote:
 - = "Help me with my frustrations as I see them and I will listen to your good news. For in helping me where I feel my hurt, you have already begun to be good news."
 - Page 104.

- b. Baptism is our driver's license to be good news.
 - We are not simply:
 - #Spectators.
 - #Back seat drivers.
 - We are authorized to:
 - #Teach.
 - #Preach.
 - #Heal.
 - We are authorized to:
 - #Welcome.
 - #Worship.
 - #Grow.
 - #Witness.
 - #Serve.
- c. On this Father's Day.
 - Best that we as parents can pass on to our:
 - #Children.
 - #Grandchildren.
 - What we have received from the Lord.
 - #Love.
 - #Faith.
 - #Forgiveness.
 - #Promise of eternal life.

Concl: We have freely received.
-We freely give.

What do you know?
-We begin with what we know.

