Sermon Notes for June 18, 2017

The Training of the Twelve


Introduction

Every church needs to be making disciples and developing leaders or it will die.

The training of the twelve was a necessary part of Jesus’ ministry.

They have seen Jesus doing ministry and now the time has come to send them out two by two on their first mission trip.

Some of the instructions were specific to this mission and others are universal principles that apply to all ministry.

I. Gospel Power. Verse 1

Jesus gave them power and authority to do what he had been doing.

- To drive out demons.
- To cure diseases and heal the sick.
- To preach the kingdom of God.

Discipleship is a process. There are steps involved in that process.

- I do. You watch.
- I do. You help.
- You do. I help.
- You do. I watch.
- You do. Others watch.

But, you cannot do ministry and expect it to bear fruit without Gospel power.

“You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:48-49

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

II. Gospel Preaching. Verse 2

Jesus sent them out to preach the kingdom of God.

We preach the kingdom whenever we talk about God’s reign over all of life and over the human heart.
When we preach the gospel, we are preaching the kingdom. And whenever another person comes to know Jesus as Savior and Lord, the kingdom of God grows.

Our ministry is a word-based ministry.

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.” II Timothy 4:1-2

III. Gospel Compassion. Verse 2

Jesus gave them authority to drive out demons, cure diseases and heal the sick.

The preaching of the gospel needs to be accompanied by acts of love and service. Our actions give proof of God’s love.

That work continues to this very day.

IV. Gospel Fruit. Verses 3-9

Jesus told the disciples to take nothing for the journey. These instructions are not universal.

He wanted them to depend upon God for their daily bread and for what they would say.

Herod heard about this work and wondered, “Who is this?”

Who is Jesus? It is the question every person must answer.

Conclusion:

Gospel Ministry includes these four aspects:

• Gospel Power
• Gospel Preaching
• Gospel Compassion
• Gospel Fruit

The Training of the Twelve would continue for two more years.

The training of leaders in the church continues today.

Will you join in this great work?