

This Week's Principle:

A Disciple

Chase the Strays (Luke 15:4):

every Christian who has strayed from Christ will be valued, noticed, and pursued.

Scripture

⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?"

Luke 15:4

Key Thought

Compare the response of the disciples described in this section compared to the response of the Gentiles in 7:37. Which group had more insight, the Gentiles or the disciples? Why was Jesus questioning the disciples lack of faith?

Application: Why do some people respond to the Gospel with very little information, while others have an abundance of knowledge but never seem able to believe? (Romans 1:19-20; 2 Corinthians 4:4; John 12:36-40)

Jesus Feeds the 4,000

Mark 8:1 -

Introduction: Read Genesis 3:1-13. Who did Adam blame for the sin he committed? Who did Eve blame for the sin she committed? Tell of a time that you tried to pass blame for something you did wrong but got caught anyways.

1. Read Mark 8:1-3. Since the crowd had been with Jesus for three days, what do you think Jesus was doing during these three days? Why does Mark not tell us what Jesus taught? What trait or quality are we supposed to notice about Jesus in this section? "From far away" is the Greek used to describe the lands of the Gentiles (Isaiah 43:6; 49:12; 60:4; Jer. 26:27; Joshua 9:6; Acts 2:39). Why is it significant that Mark wants us to make a connection that some of the people in this crowd are from Gentile lands away from Israel?

Application: Why is it important for the church to remember that the Gospel is open to everyone? What happens to a church/community if they think the Gospel is only for a select group of people?

How do we communicate to those who are outside the mainstream that the Gospel is available to them?

2. Mark 8:4-10. (Read Mark 6:31-44) Why is the doubting displayed by the disciples disturbing at this point in the disciples' journey with Jesus? How is this story in 8 similar to the story in 6? How are they different? What is the significance that Jesus fed Gentiles in a similar way to the Jews in chapter 6?

3. Mark 8:11-13. Why were the Pharisees demanding a sign? (Deuteronomy 6:16). Why did Jesus sigh? Why was Jesus unwilling to give them a sign?

4. Read Mark 8:14-21. What is the surface topic for this section of Scripture? Why should the disciples have not been concerned about bread? What is this section of Scripture really concerned about?

5. Compare the response of the disciples described in this section compared to the response of the Gentiles in 7:37. Which group had more insight, the Gentiles or the disciples? Why was Jesus questioning the disciples lack of faith?

Application: Why do some people respond to the Gospel with very little information, while others have an abundance of knowledge but never seem able to believe? (Romans 1:19-20; 2 Corinthians 4:4; John 12:36-40)

6. Read Mark 8:22-26. What is unusual about this healing? Why did Jesus heal the man in "two stages"? How are the disciples understanding of Jesus at this point like the blind man before his healing? Did the blindness of the disciples disappear instantaneously or did it happen in stages?

Application: How is our spiritual immaturity/blindness similar to the blind man and the disciples? How do we avoid being frustrated when we/our children/others don't understand and grow in maturity quickly?

7. Read Psalm 146:8 and Isaiah 29:18. What is the significance that Jesus is able to heal a blind man, according to these passages?

Vision, Mission, Values, & Principles

The Vision

Our vision is to see the fulfillment of the Great Commission through our lives, families, and ministries.

Matthew 28:18-20

The Mission

Our mission is to lead people to KNOW Christ, teach them to GROW in Christ, and equip them to SERVE Christ.

Colossians 2:6-7

Core Values

We value the TRUTH of God's Word, the LOVE of God's heart, and SERVICE in his kingdom

2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 22:36-40, Matthew 23:11

A Disciple

A disciple is a person who has a personal relationship with Jesus, knows and obeys Jesus' commands, and intentionally makes other disciples for Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 1:17; John 15:5-17

Core Principles for Family Groups

Abiding Relationship with Jesus

(*John 15:4-7*): every group member will have a personal relationship with Jesus that transforms how they live their life.

Reach the Lost (*Luke 19:10;*

Matthew 28:18-20): every member shares their faith with those who do not know Jesus and celebrates when a person makes a decision for Christ

Connect the Unconnected

(*Hebrews 10:24-25*): every member is connected with Jesus and with the church. Each person is connected in an intentional relational environment for the purpose of becoming a disciple.

Chase the Strays (*Luke 15:4*): every Christian who has strayed from Christ will be valued, noticed, and pursued.

Shepherd Towards Maturity

(*Colossians 1:28; 2 Cor. 3:18*): every person in our church is progressing in spiritual maturity and becoming more like Jesus Christ.

Identify, Equip, and Empower

Leaders (*Ephesians 4:11-12*): we will fulfill the command of Ephesians 4 to equip believers for ministry, empower them to be who God created them to be, and send them out to serve.

Function as a Team (*John 17:21-*

23): we will be unified as a group and as a church as commanded in John 17, and we will function and work as a team pursuing God's purposes.

Announcements

Sunday Morning Makeover

Sunday, May 25 is Makeover Day! We are moving to 2 services. We are moving our 9:30 am Worship service and Family Groups to 9:00 am. We are moving our 11 am Worship service and Family Groups to 10:30 am.

As part of the change, our 9:00 am service will be a modern service, while our 10:30 am service will be a "Classic" service with old and new hymns.

Our new schedule begins Sunday, May 25.

Find a Group

If you are not in a Bible study, you can find a listing of current groups on our website: familychurchpc.com and click on Family Groups.