

Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: ““Doing the Hard Things God Asks Us to Do”,

May 6, 2018

Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Why did you come to Jesus in the first place? Was it because of all that he could do for you? Listen to people’s testimonies and it sounds like Jesus is the Great Fixer. Was it because of your fear of hell? Good place to start. Was it because you heard he could do miracles? Why?

Context

Exegesis

Today’s Lesson: Following Jesus’ example means doing God’s will even when it is difficult.

1. It was the Father’s will for Jesus to leave a very successful ministry in Samaria and head north to Galilee where He knew there would be resistance to Him and His message.
 - It is extremely tempting to stuff our witnessing cards or our Ultimate Questions in the “Do It Later File” for lack of results. No church today is experiencing a Great Awakening like harvest Jesus did in Samaria.
 - It is easier to let others do the witnessing to our lost relatives than for us to do it, so we disobey the Lord by refusing to discuss the gospel, even though we know they are lost.
 - It is also easy to cut our prayers short or eliminate them altogether if we are not seeing immediate results.
 - It is also easier to cater to the church visitor with no needs than to spend time with the visitor with lots of needs and no end in sight of finding help.
 - As a pastor it is also easier for me to water down hard passages and make the Scriptures softer and gentler.
2. It was the Father’s will for Jesus to heal a man’s son even though the man (and the rest of the Galileans) demonstrated only selfish faith. The man did not believe in Jesus as Messiah or Son of God but only as a reputed healer.
 - Is it our temptation to brush people aside if we sense they are only trying to take advantage of us?
3. Which person in this story do you most identify with? The father? The Galileans? The Lord? The

disciples who are watching?

4. Miracles in themselves are not enough to produce genuine faith.

- Illustrate from Gary Burge

5. The Lord can only do what God tells him to do. Can we do the same miracles as Jesus? Yes, providing the Lord is instructing us to pray in faith believing. How do we hear the voice of the Lord well enough to know? *John 5:19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. (ESV)*