

Blessed to Be a Blessing – January 16, 2011

Sticking Out

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Matthew 5:13-15 NKJV

One would think that it would be extremely difficult to hide a city on a hill. It is up there for everyone to see. Perhaps those who selected the building site for Grace Lutheran had the same principle in mind. Being built on a hill we are not hidden, but visible to all who pass by. It is the same principle for light shining in darkness...the light can't be hidden...it shines forth and expels the darkness from its sphere of influence.

Jesus teaches us here that the true nature of Christians is that they can't remain hidden in the darkness of this world. Even if we were to try to be unobtrusive or remain obscure, any expression of our faith makes us like the light in darkness or the city on top of the hill. As Christians we "stick out". That is the way it should be. We should be seen by the world as those who are the bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Someone brought the witness of Christ to us...we carry it to others.

Are you uncomfortable with being a witness for Jesus Christ? Many are. Many don't give it a second thought, or have never considered themselves to be witnesses. It can be a bit uncomfortable for us when we wake up to the fact that as Christians we are witnesses. People are learning all the time from our words and deeds what it means to be a Christian. They study our actions and they measure our associations. What they know of Jesus comes from what they know of us!

There are many opportunities to apply the Word of God each and every day. Some are crystal clear to us, others we let slide by because we are unprepared. Since we claim to be Christians and thus cannot avoid being witnesses for Jesus, how do we best equip ourselves for that task?

The only way to be equipped for the task of being a witness is to be in the Word of God. Therein we find the blueprint for Christian living and thus for being Ambassadors for Christ. God's Word constantly reinforces to us the love He has for us through our Savior, Jesus Christ and by this Gospel teaches us to share the forgiving love of God with others. There are many opportunities to be in God's Word learning and growing in Grace. The best opportunity for this is by being in worship with fellow Christians each and every Sunday. When we come to God's House, we not only receive forgiveness, life, and salvation but we also witness to others of our faith. It is a prime example of being "blessed to be a blessing". In fact, as long as health allows, the best witness we can give to others is to be in worship each and every Sunday. The opposite is also true....when we are not in worship we are witnessing too...witnessing that life in Christ is not all that important to us. We are like a city on a hill or light in darkness that can't be hidden. The world is watching us....what kind of message are we communicating to them?

Pastor Jacobs

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