

“Back to the Basics Part 1: The Journey; “Saying Yes and Following”

In our sermon series, Back to the Basics, The Journey, we are focusing on the basics of our Christian Faith. This week we look at saying yes and following Jesus. When Christ invites people to follow him, it isn't so that somehow people have a new hero, or new celebrity to follow, it is specifically to change the world. Jesus had compassion on everyone he saw and invited his disciples to go out healing, praying, teaching and changing lives. It is no different today. The world is filled with people who are troubled, weary, overwhelmed and grieving. The call is just as real and just as important. May this week, the voice of Christ encourage you to remember you are loved and called into changing lives and transforming the world. Pastor Cindy

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon: **“Saying Yes and Following”**

Prayer for the Week

Come, my Light, and illumine my darkness. Come, my Life, and revive me from death. Come, my Physician, and heal my wounds. Come, Flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns of my sins, kindling my heart with the flame of thy love. Come, my King, sit upon the throne of my heart and reign there. For thou alone are my King and my Lord. Amen. (Dimitri of Rostov, Russia, 17th Century, United Methodist Hymnal #466)

This week's sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, 9/25/17 Matthew 9:35-38

These verses are such a powerful witness to Jesus' love and compassion. Jesus is working hard, healing, teaching and traveling from place to place. In the Common English Bible (CEB) it states, "He had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless." Jesus didn't see the crowds as "problems" or the sick and destitute as people to look past on his way from one place to the next. Jesus had compassion on each one he met and invited the disciples to be about the work of the kingdom. *How have you been called? What is the harvest that Christ is sending you out to work?*

Tuesday, 9/26 /17 Matthew 10:1-4

Jesus not only calls his disciples but gives them authority to heal, teach and make a difference in the world. All twelve are named and I think that is important, because they were not perfect people. All had flaws, they fought, they misunderstood Jesus, and Judas betrayed Jesus and the rest of them fled in fear. Jesus calls each person, not because they will never fail or turn away, but because God loves each person and invites each one to participate in changing the world. God calls you and grants you authority to share your gifts in the world. *What are you doing today to change the world?*

Wednesday, 9/27/17 Isaiah 43:1-2

In the second part of Isaiah (beginning with chapter 40) a restoration theme is dominant. The people of Israel are tired, overwhelmed and the word of Isaiah brings hope. In Chapter 42, we have the first of the Servant Songs (which describe the Messiah or the Christ and in the Christian tradition describes Jesus for us.) These two verses remind the people of Israel that they are loved and precious. No matter what might happen in their lives, God is there and calls them by name. That is real love, a love that walks through the fire, the waters and the craziness, a love that withstands the most powerful storms. It is the love that Jesus shares as he looks with compassion on the crowds....there is no trouble or storm too great for God's love. *How do you experience that love when you are in times of trial?*

Thursday, 9/28/17 Isaiah 43: 3-4

The prophet gives witness that God is God! "You are precious in my sight and I love you." There are no more powerful words than God giving voice to how precious each person is and how each are beloved. *Recalling Jesus' compassion and his call, how do you experience the love God? Do you really believe you are precious in God's sight and that you are honored and loved? Today you are invited to say yes to God's love and His call in your life.*

Friday, 9/29/17 Isaiah 43: 5-7

The prophet reminds the people that out of love God will bring them home and will restore them. Their families will be reunited and they will know in a real way God grace and love. I think Jesus promises us that kind of hope and love through the community of faith. Jesus invites us to love one another and through loving one another, we experience and see God in a new way. *In what ways can the community of faith be restored in love and share that love with others? How can the call of Jesus be made real in the community and through the actions of our lives?*