

**102917 Continuing The Family Reunion....we have been running back and forth like kids at Christmas, picking up one treasure and moving on to find another. It is so wonderful to belong to the family of God! and it is all due to the fact that God our Father so loves the world, that in his wisdom he sent Jesus to find us lost kids, saving us and then bringing us into his family.**

*LK 19: 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

- **Have you ever noticed when people meet famous people or celebrities they want to tell other people? take pictures with, get autographs do selfies with? why? we want to be near them...that somehow that means something...and others should see it...**
- **What boogles my mind is that the most important being and person ever, the celebrity of all Celebrities...the King of all Kings ... God himself wanted to be near you and I ....and will look for us and find us often in our worst possible condition...and then tells everyone in the heavenlies we are His! and become completely new people! and then wants to use us to bring in other lost people...**
- **And actually giving us a new life.**

*2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

**In Jesus we become a new person in the kingdom of God.**

- **the amazing grace of God makes room for us to participate and become fully involved in his plans** Continuing Christ's mission to "seek and to save the lost". In other words... finding and restoring the other misfit...the ones who have not fit in anywhere. -- **God's grace is that great.**
- **Why does he want us to help bring in those not yet a part of the family of God? Because all families want their name to continue on through their children.... The Family of God is no different.**
- **The only difference is you come into the kingdom of God sometime after you are born...hence the term born again! ..... So banish the thought that you and God are not enough to make a difference...**
- **it is one of the greatest lies the enemy uses against us...saying you are not powerful enough or influential enough, holy enough, or knowledgeable enough, or perfect enough to effect the life of someone eternally....**
- **This is what Jesus says...**

*John 14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. How? God the Holy Spirit will be in you!!*

*1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one*

*who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

**Therefore...you count...you are part not only of His family...but been more intimately his body!!**

*1CO 12:27 Now you are the **body of Christ**, and each one of you is a part of it.*

- **Jesus loves His church so someone cannot love Jesus and not like his church the body!**

**\*\*\*Paul writes clarifying this in Corinthians...** *1 Corinthians 12: <sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

- **So no Self condemnation...For that has no place in the body**

*<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

- **So no Self exaltation....Pride has no place in a body! In fact it deforms the body...**

*<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say (forbidden) to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”*

*<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

- **This body is meant to minister to other hurting bodies!**
- **Each one is a part and performs a function for the body... living in this body as family ....adding to this body that it may grow strong and larger!**
- **The smallest part has great power to effect a part of this world...**

**Just the way we are...possessing only what we have ...because we are with Jesus We have a great example given in all four Gospels...in fact the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels...**

**Let's set the scene... ..First the apostles...Jesus had sent the twelve on their first mission to go to cities to tell of him, without him...at least a few weeks alone ...John**

the Baptist had been martyred during this same time...they were tired, successful in the mission, yet disillusioned upon hearing of John...The people were still coming because Jesus he too was on his job also..teaching and healing one of the reasons we need each other...we get tired!!

**Understand this...ministry does not happen in sterile clean, environments...it happens in the nitty- gritty of doing life...on life's terms in life's circumstances**  
**So we pick up the story...in Mark**

*Mark 6:30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." <sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.*

- so they make shore to eat and rest...and lo and behold the...people again

*Mark 6:34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, **he had compassion on them**, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

- they were lost...and they had an obvious need....he saw it and had compassion for them...empathy he was concerned for their state of being...
- that is the key to being effective in the harvest is to experience a love for the Harvest... you cannot effectively help people you condemn ... fear, despise or look down upon..... or think your better than...
- listen to what Jesus said ...

*Luke 10: <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

- Wherever you go...it is a harvest field....it is not about the Harvest field...for it is plentiful
- **I find it disturbing when God's kids complain about the Harvest field, as if it should already be harvested...or want to be or at least should act like they have been harvested...**
- Nope all you have to have is compassion on the Harvest field...that is why Jesus says to pray for the workers...because often times ...God's kids don't have compassion toward the condition of the Harvest field....

- **So what does working in the Harvest look like...and feel like?...it looks impossible and feels overwhelming... not to mention we often feel inadequate to help or even know how to help in the Harvest field...**
- **that is why we like to leave it to the so called professionals!!!**

**So Jesus addresses this....the apostles were hungry, and knew the people were also...send them away is their solution so we can eat...**

*35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. 36 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."*

- **The disciples had already figured out the practical solution...send them home...**
  - **The disciples saw the need...and had their own solution...send them away...and asked Jesus to help them do this...**
  - **that is One reason so many of us care little about the world's problems.**
  - **We just thank God it is not us....**
  - **And in fact many want to insulate themselves from the problems and the people who surround us.**
  - **We can all be self focused...where Jesus was not.**
  - **They did not see the need in people like Jesus did...**
  - **He called the disciples together and informed them of his heart toward them**
  - **He was concerned for their well being...food for their hunger...strength for their journey ...but even greater need rest for their souls**
- **This has been no planned gathering. It has been spontaneous, spur of the moment. The crowds have given no thought to provisions or distance. ...**
- **scattered sheep...no shepherd!...No-body was going to starve to death...it was not an emergency... the people came ill prepared to be there all day...no food probably little water...**
- **truly sheep without a shepherd...just like the people we are surrounded by!**
- **Their only thought has been to hear Jesus and see him heal still others.**
- **Now they are miles from home, their stomachs beginning to send hunger signals, and the sun is beginning to go down.**
- **What's more, there are about five thousand men, "besides women and children" we will be told. Surely it is time to close, the disciples say.**
- **The disciples had already figured out the practical solution...send them home...**
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- And in fact many want to insulate themselves from the problems and the people who surround us.
- We can all be self focused...where Jesus was not.
- They did not see the need in people like Jesus did...
- He called the disciples together and informed them of his heart toward them
- He was concerned for their well being...food for their hunger...strength for their journey
- **Jesus had a different plan...he usually does...**

*MK 6:37 But he answered, "You give them something to eat."*

- **Jesus' reply is startling! "You give them something to eat."**
- **Why? Why does Jesus respond this way? Why can't he be practical?**
- **Jesus ... intentionally presented a need an opportunity where their own resources are woefully inadequate.....which means he is also working something into their lives as well....**
- **so they inform Jesus of this reality...**

*37b.... They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"*

- **Jesus ... intentionally worked an opportunity into their lives which would overwhelm their abilities to meet it.....**
- **which means he is also working something into their lives as well....**
- **you and I may never be put in that particular situation by Jesus...but we all know any situation Jesus puts us in one and one at work...is still overwhelming to us... and like them we feel were inadequate to supply resources.**

**This is what we need to know....When the Lord sets up a situation of need...he already has a solution to the need...**

**lets learn from the principles given in this situation...which are applicable to any situation the Lord uses us as workers in the Harvest field!**

**Jesus asked the apostles**

*MK 6:38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five--and two fish." (John actually reports they got the fish and loaves from a kid who was smart enough to bring lunch)*

- 1. Search out available resources... What do you have?...what is available to you?...what did you find out?**
- 2. Bring what you have to Jesus...**

**3. Calm down...Stay composed... God is not a God of confusion and panic...neither should you be...and be a calming influence to those you are helping.**

*MK 6:39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.*

**4. Pray with Thanksgiving and you might need help...you are not a lone ranger! sometimes you alone and sometimes with others...be wise**

*<sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied,*

**5. Serve with what you possess... Let God deal with the things you have not, nor have control over...we must learn to depend on his power....not on what we bring Him**

**6. God will make what you have be enough! ....they all ate and were satisfied!**

*<sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.*

**7. You will receive back greater than what you gave!...wisdom , faith, joy power, understanding, more opportunities and fulfillment**

*<sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.*

- **Feeding 5K plus was not the real miracle...they will all need to eat within hours...**
- **but helping the disciples realize that even when they are completely overwhelmed and are inadequate to meet the needs of the Harvest...they will still be productive if they use what they have, ask God and are willing to serve...**
- **little is much when you and Jesus work together!**
- **Do you realize You are a specialist in the harvest field you have been placed in...and the work to do in it actually fits you...and with God in you ...you become pretty darn competent!**
- **But there is an if...if you are willing to work!**
- Just like any line of work...studies have proven, one can become skilled at most anything if they have the aptitude to learn and willingness to do....
- that is the real lesson....may we learn and apply this in our day to day life of living and ministering in the Harvest Field
- Than you invite them here ! to learn and grow...