

Monday, January 1, 2018 - Day 365 – Malachi 4, Psalm 149-150, Luke 9

Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.” We have been given a commission by Jesus: to preach the news of God’s kingdom, to feed the hungry, care for the lost, and to heal the sick. He has given us the authority and power to do it, but it is His power and authority, not ours... and He expects us to use it for His kingdom purposes, not our own. When Jesus tells his disciples, “Take nothing for the journey”, he is establishing who’s in control.

So it is for us; we are the vessels but He is the equipper! He will use you, if you are willing. Those same Twelve had no idea how to feed thousands of people in the middle of nowhere with no obvious resources. They simply couldn’t work it out. But, by listening to Jesus and following His instructions, they served thousands, even having left-overs! We will never fully understand the totality of Jesus in this life (the disciples certainly didn’t - Peter, John and James were dumbfounded by the transfiguration, and talk of the Son of Man being killed simply bewildered all of them) - yet by simple trust in Him and obedience to His Way, we, too, can serve and feed this starving world.

And we need to get on with it. No procrastination. No backward looks. You can’t put God’s kingdom off till tomorrow. Following Jesus requires us to go forward, because His eyes are fixed on the destination. And He invites us to set our eyes on the same destination. Don’t look for fame and fortune out of it. It’s the one who thinks least of himself who’s the greatest - it is your spirit, not your size that makes the difference in the kingdom.

By The Rev. Jeffrey Moretzsohn