

All This Matters

There's So Much More To Following Jesus
June 19, 2022 (Father's Day)

Daily habits & practices of being a Jesus follower. A disciple. Disciples are followers who are looking for direction from their Master
1 Timothy 4:7b ...*train yourself* to be godly.

Come - *Near* to Jesus; *Hear* - Pay Attention; *Do* - Obey, Practice

John 13:34b MSG “...*Love one another*. In the same way I loved you, you *love one another*. This is how everyone will recognize that you are My disciples—when they *see the love you have for each other*.”

God is counting us to show the world's people His love & goodness!

Acts 1:8 You'll *receive power* when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you'll *be My witnesses*, telling people about Me everywhere...

Acts 1:8 TPT I promise you this, the Holy Spirit will come upon you & you will be seized w/ power. You'll be My *messengers* ...”

Wow!!! Partnering w/ God! Living life as an agent of God!

I wonder if the disciples thought, “Who? Me?”

You may be thinking today, “Who? Me?” – Yep, you.

God has given you the honor of being a spokesperson for Him.

2 Corinthians 5:11a TPT Since we're those who stand in holy awe of the Lord, we *make it our passion* to persuade others *to turn to Him*...

14 It's Christ's love that fuels our passion & motivates us, because we're absolutely convinced that He's given His life for all of us... **16a** From now on, we have a new perspective that refuses to evaluate people merely by their outward appearances... **18** God has made all things new & reconciled us to Himself, & *given us the ministry of reconciling others to God*. **19** In other words, it was through the Anointed One that God was shepherding the world, not even keeping records of their transgressions & He's entrusted to us the ministry of opening the door of reconciliation to God. **20** *We are ambassadors* of the Anointed One (*AMP Christ's personal representatives*) who *carry the message of Christ* to the world, as though God were tenderly pleading w/ them directly through our lips. So, we tenderly plead w/ you on Christ's behalf, “Turn back to God & be reconciled to Him.”

Dare I say (& I do) that the primary reason we remain on this planet is to carry the message of Christ.

“Kings Circle is here, for those who aren’t.” All people matter

I believe all of us, deep in our hearts, desire to be Christ’s ambassadors.

We may not know what to do or exactly how to do it, but nothing is more rewarding than leading someone to the love, grace & truth of Jesus.

Let’s realize what we’re carrying & who we’re representing.

3 Stories To Help Us Understand Loving Others Well

Luke 15:1 Tax collectors & other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ² This made the Pharisees & teachers of religious law complain that He was associating w/ such sinful people, even eating w/ them! ³ So Jesus told *them* this story:

Lost Sheep

⁴ If a man has a 100 sheep & 1 of ‘em gets lost, what’ll he do? Won’t he *leave the 99 others* in the wilderness & go to *search* for the one that’s lost until he finds it? ⁵ & When he’s found it, he’ll joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶ When he arrives, he’ll call together his friends & neighbors, saying, ‘*Rejoice* w/ me because I’ve found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ In the same way, there’s more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents & returns to God than over 99 others who are righteous & haven’t strayed away!

Lost Coin

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins & loses one. Won’t she light a lamp & *sweep the entire* house & *search carefully* until she finds it? ⁹ & when she finds it, she’ll call in her friends & neighbors & say, ‘*Rejoice* w/ me because I’ve found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, there’s joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”

Lost Son

¹¹ To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ His father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. ¹³ “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings & moved to a distant land & there he wasted all his money in wild living. ¹⁴

About the time his money ran out a great famine swept over the land, & he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, & the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. 17 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, & here I am dying of hunger! 18 I’ll go home to my father & say, “Father, I’ve sinned against both heaven & you, 19 & I’m no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.””

20 “So he returned home to his father & *while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled w/ love & compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, & kissed him.* 21 His son said to him, ‘Father, I’ve sinned against both heaven & you, & I’m no longer worthy of being called your son.’ 22 “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house & put it on him. Get a ring for his finger & sandals for his feet. 23 & kill the calf we’ve been fattening. *We must celebrate* w/ a feast 24 for this son of mine was dead & has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he’s found.’ So *the party began!*”

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music & dancing in the house, 26 & he asked one of the servants what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother’s back,’ he was told, ‘& your father’s killed the fattened calf. We’re celebrating because of his safe return.’ 28 “The older brother was angry & wouldn’t go in. His father came out & begged him, 29 but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you & never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. & in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast w/ my friends 30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’ 31 “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, *you’ve always stayed by me, & everything I have is yours.* 32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead & has come back to life! He was lost, but now he’s found!’”

3 Common Lessons In Each Story

1. People matter when they’re missing. God knows & cares when someone is disconnected. People matter to Jesus. The sheep, the coin, & the

son are very valuable. God knows when we're not connected to Him. We're significant to Jesus. We matter. All people matter. All lives matter. God's love is so heavy, so powerful, w/ deep compassion! That same spirit/compassion is in us. We carry His heart for people.

2. People are important enough to search for. "Send out an A.P.B.!" God is searching, seeking hunting, scanning the horizon looking for us.

*Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God*

*There's no shadow You won't light up; Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down; Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me*

3. People are worth throwing a party over. Rejoice! Celebrate! Par-tay! When did you surrender your life & follow Jesus? On that day, all of heaven through a party & rejoiced over you! They hung a banner & your name is on a banner! Because you matter to God. You're a treasure.

Our primary mission on this planet is to carry the message of Christ.

Let's be strong in what we're carrying & who we're representing.

John 3:16 "This is how God loved the world: He gave His one & only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.

*This is the Good News, the Gospel, the Message of Jesus that we carry
Let's not be content w/ living safe - w/in our churches & Christian circles
Let's live a life full of the Holy Spirit, carrying the message of Christ!*