



Truth in Motion

Luke 9:1-8

- When we say that we are people of truth that means we actively engage with others based on this truth of God's Word.
- Was watching a podcast with Pastor Chuck Swindoll this week – He explained the difference between beliefs and convictions. Beliefs are those things that you express as truth. Convictions are those things that you would die for.
- I hope and pray for us to be a convictional people.

- In the middle of all the untruths, half-truths, and blatant lies the world throws our way, we need to be people of truth and conviction. In order for that to happen, we have to engage with the people around us.
- In Chapter 9 of Luke, we read of a story where Jesus sent out His 12 disciples to be on mission and to share His teaching.
- A couple of things I want us to see in this story this morning.
 - ***Who is the enemy?***
 - Very evident of the spiritual warfare they would face. VERSE 1. Power over demon and to heal diseases. This is what Jesus commissioned His disciples to do. There are evil powers and principalities at work. While we fight against that, we have to be aware of how to serve and love others.
 - ***How can we engage with truth?***
 - Truth and love are not at odds with one another. It is unloving to lie to others. Examples – doctor appt., politicians, weatherman, spouse.

Main Point: We are called to go out and proclaim the truth of the Gospel.

- The gathering of God's people is important to plan of God for our lives. But it is not enough for us to gather each week to proclaim what is truth without living and exercising truth throughout the week.
- Truth must be put into motion.

I. **The mission before us**

- a. VERSE 2 - Preach truth and serve others. Proclaim the kingdom and heal the sick.
- b. There is our mission as individuals. And then there is our mission as the church.

- c. The two are intertwined and both are important. But this mission plays itself out in different ways through different circumstances.
- d. Our mission as individuals
 - i. Usually in the context of family and close friends. To love them and to point them to Christ.
 - ii. The most important mission field for an individual Christian is their own home.
 - iii. Every family should be, as it were, a little church consecrated to Christ.
Jonthan Edwards.
 - iv. Ancient Christian theologians explained it by using this term – *Ordo Amoris*. Order of loves - The order of our heart. We should be the most sacrificial with our time and resources in serving and loving our family.
 - 1. This is the reason we lock our doors at night. And why we don't always give all our money away to strangers. There are times when we can show benevolence in that way. But we could pour our hearts out to others while neglecting our own family at home.
 - 2. Why all this is important - We are losing ground with families in our society.
- e. Then there is the mission of the church
 - i. Go unto all the world and make disciples of the Lord Jesus. Matthew 28 and Acts 1.
 - ii. Evangelism, baptism, discipleship, worship, ministerial care. They are all functions of fulfilling the mission that God gave collectively to the church.

- f. You can see how these two areas of our lives could become skewed or slightly blurred.
- g. I read a very famous book that came out many years ago while I was in college – Radical by David Platt. I originally had bought into many of the ideas. We should deny ourselves of things and resources in order to serve a greater mission. That was part of the reason that I was led to attend seminary at the same place David Platt had served as a professor.
- h. But I have come to believe in an approach that I believe is more biblical. There is nothing wrong with providing and caring for your family – even materialistically. That should be an important part of our personal mission. But like all things in life – it should be done with balance.

II. The right preparation

- a. VERSE 3 – Take nothing for the road.
- b. Sounds like they will be very prepared for what lies ahead.
- c. This is not a lack of preparation. This is the *right kind* of preparation.
- d. He had told them – I will give you power and authority. This was given to them by Jesus, and that was all that they needed to commit to this mission.
- e. Philippians 4 – I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Paul had learned to live with a little and learned to live with a lot.
- f. Matthew 28: 18 – All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.
- g. Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power with the Holy Spirit has come upon you. *If you don't have you have the presence of God – you have all that you need. If you don't have God's guidance, you will never have enough to be prepared.*

- h. Power and authority to do what?
 - i. We are not apostles, in that we have not been directly involved with Jesus' earthly ministry.
 - i. The essential ministry is what faithful believers have followed throughout the centuries.
 - i. Deuteronomy 6 – Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, strength.
 - ii. Leviticus 19 – Love others as yourself.
 - iii. Micah 6:8 – Seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.
 - iv. The NT extensions of those teachings.

III. Dealing with rejection

- a. If they do not welcome you...
- b. There will be those who reject the truth of God's Word.
- c. Ancient practice of shaking the dust off your feet – an act of disassociation and separation. The act showed even the dust of this town is unworthy to cling to someone who is preaching the truth of God's Word.
- d. Why do we have a hard time reconciling with this today? Maybe we want to cling to the idea that they could grow to accept and see the truth.
- e. That could be possible. It requires discernment.
- f. I would encourage you to think of this as well – We shouldn't waste all our time and energy trying to get people to do the right thing when they have shown no interest in doing it for themselves.

g. Being able to do that is to put the person or situation under God's supervision.

Asking God to do what we cannot do ourselves. Trusting that God is working out all things for good.