

“Committed to a Lifestyle that Witnesses”

The Marks of Jesus’ Disciples, Part 4

Small Group Study

Week of Oct. 11, 2009

As God’s people, we are all called to share the good news about Jesus with others – we are going to talk next week about that calling and why it is important. But today I want us to remind us that if we are going to make the impact in the world that God desires us to make, it will mean that what we proclaim with our mouths is exemplified in the way we live – that God is calling us to a lifestyle that witnesses.

To Begin ...

1. Which do you think is easier – to talk to people about Jesus or to live a life that points people toward Him? Why?
2. Which do you think is more important? Why?

Review the sermon ...

1. The sermon referenced Matthew 5:14-16:

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

How does this passage relate to Mark’s first point in his sermon when he said that part of our call as God’s people is “to live a life that points to God”?

2. The sermon looked at four ways we can live out this call, listed below:

... having a ***heart for the disadvantaged***

Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” (Isaiah 1:17)

... caring for ***the hurting***

But a Samaritan ... came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.... (Lk. 10:33)

... living as ***examples to the world***

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Pet. 2:12)

... by ***humbly giving grace***

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. (1 Tim. 1:15-16)

- a. What did Mark mean by each of these points?
- b. How can living each out help point people toward God?

Going Deeper ...

Read Luke 10:25-37 (the parable of the Good Samaritan).

1. How would you summarize the main point of Jesus' story?
2. How is the church like the Good Samaritan?
3. How is the church like the priest and the Levite?
4. How might this passage be applicable to our ministry here at MHPC?

Read James 1:14-26 (comparing "faith" and "works")

1. How does James describe as the relationship between authentic faith and our good works?
2. How does James describe so-called faith absent of good works?
3. How does this have to say about how we live out our faith in the world?

Making it Personal and Practical ...

1. How do you think MHPC is making an impact in this community?
2. How might God be calling you to make a difference as an individual? How might your small group get involved?

Praying Together ...

1. Share concerns with one another, and pray for those concerns.
2. Pray for MHPC, that we might make the difference in our community that God would desire for us to make.