

Steps of a Disciple, part 11

Go and Tell! Part 2—Breaking Free From The Cocoon

Luke 15:1-10; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8; Acts 16:6-10

#1 - Develop Friendships, Luke 15

In this passage, we find Jesus' practice of mingling, eating and conversing with sinners, coming under fire.... again!

Other than this occasion found in Luke 15, I have identified at least three other times where Jesus was criticized for spending time with the lost. Here they are in chronological order:

- Luke 5:27-32; Matthew 9:11; Mark 2:16 - The call of Matthew: 2nd Year of Jesus' ministry
- Luke 7:39 - Anointing of Jesus' feet in the house of Pharisee Simon
- Luke 15:1-2 - Late in Jesus' ministry
- Luke 19:7 - Meeting with Zaccheus, a tax collector/late in Jesus' ministry

In the Luke 15 text, let's read the opening two verses:

What was Jesus doing that got Him in trouble with the religious people in His day?

That's right, He was engaging with people in need of His help.

For us to successfully follow Christ's command to Go and Tell!, we must take God's message of forgiveness and salvation to those who are lost. Jesus Himself said about His own mission in this world, Luke 19:10:

Furthermore, later in the text before us, Luke 15:31-32, Jesus said this:

In a different setting, Jesus compared this commission to His disciples as fishing for men, Matthew 4:19:

To catch fish, you need to go where the fish are. Trust me, the fish don't come to you—you must go to them!

Jesus said that He would make us "fishers of men."

To be effective spiritual fishermen, we need to go where the lost are and Develop Friendships.

There are a number of ways you can do that:

- **Start an evangelistic Bible study in your home and invite your neighbors to join you.** You can utilize *RightNow Media* as the teaching tool and then lead the conversation after each session. For some, this will cause them to think of their own spiritu-

al condition and start asking some questions.

- Use **Bless Every Home** as a tool to begin praying for your surrounding neighbors by name and then, over the course of time, reach out to them in simple ways to establish a relationship.
- **Join a group that shares an interest of yours.** That could be quilting, fishing, outdoor grilling, gardening, chess, jewelry or candle making, electronic gaming, target practice, or hiking. In doing any of these, you will quickly form relationships with others and there will be opportunities to share the gospel.

The most important idea here is to move outside of your circle of fellow believers into a space inhabited by lost people and start to allow God to connect you with them so that they too can hear about God and His love for them.

Let's quickly notice, back in our Luke 15 text, what was Jesus' reply to their criticisms.

{read Luke 15:3-10}

These two parables, along with the longer one which follows (The Prodigal Son), has three key words: "lost," "found," and rejoice.

To break out of the cocoon we find ourselves in, we must move to the lost if we are going to "find" them spiritually and ultimately "rejoice." We must be willing to Develop Friendships.

#2 - Discover Stories

If we are to be engaging people, we must discover the stories of the people we're developing friendships with. Be the one person in their world who takes a genuine interest in their story so that you will know how best to serve them ... which leads us to our third "D."

#3 - Discern Next Steps

The work of the Holy Spirit is essential in the work of evangelism. After three years of intense round-the-clock training by none other than the Son of God, the disciples were told by Jesus that they must wait for the Holy Spirit before beginning their work: Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8.

Ephesians 5:18 tells us that we are to be Spirit-controlled or led.

When we are led by the Holy Spirit, He will make clear the small steps we are to take in sharing our faith. I want you to see the role of the Holy Spirit in the spread of the gospel to unreached people in the apostle Paul's second missionary journey. Turn in your Bibles to Acts 16:6-10.