

TELL THE GOOD NEWS TO EVERYONE

Part 2 of Foundations 260. Luke 6-10; 8:16-18.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 19, 2025.

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus wants us to tell the good news to everyone.

The background.

- Jesus was an itinerant preacher. That was his purpose.

Luke 4:43 (CSB) But he said to them, “It is necessary for me to proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because I was sent for this purpose.”

- The kingdom he preached about was manifested in healings, exorcisms, and forgiveness.
- We find Jesus preaching town to town in Luke 8:

Luke 8:1 (CSB) Afterward he was traveling from one town and village to another, preaching and telling the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him ...

- A large crowd gathered, and Jesus taught them the parable of the sower (Luke 8:4-15).
- Parables can be difficult to understand, They can be like riddles, so they need to be explained.
- The disciples asked Jesus to explain the parable of the sower, which he did. Then, he said:

Luke 8:10 (CSB) So he said, “The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given for you to know, but to the rest it is in parables, so that “Looking they may not see, and hearing they may not understand” (Isaiah 6:9).

- What did Jesus mean? His line of thought goes something like this:

- The kingdom of God has secrets that Jesus revealed in parables or riddles.
- The parables needed explanations.
- Jesus explained them to the disciples.
- But he didn't explain them to everyone, and the result was they didn't understand.

A definition of the kingdom of God.

- The kingdom is God's reign over the whole world.
- God's reign is good, just and redemptive. As the kingdom advances, God heals the world from its sin-sickness.
- Jesus preached, taught, and revealed the kingdom by forgiving sins, casting out demons, healing the sick, calming the storm, feeding the hungry, and raising the dead.
- The good news is that the kingdom is open to all who come to Jesus in repentance and faith.

TELL THE GOOD NEWS TO EVERYONE

Jesus wants his followers to tell and explain the secrets of the kingdom:

Luke 8:16-18 (CSB) "No one, after lighting a lamp, covers it with a basket or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand so that those who come in may see its light. 17 For nothing is concealed that won't be revealed, and nothing hidden that won't be made known and brought to light. 18 Therefore take care how you listen. For whoever has, more will be given to him; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him."

- The lesson? Tell everyone the good news.
- Jesus made four points:

- Verse 16: The lamp represents the secrets of the kingdom contained in Jesus' parables. The lamp is the good news.
- Verse 16: Jesus wants us to lift up the lamp so everyone can see it.
- Verse 17: That way, everyone will hear and understand the good news of the kingdom. What was concealed will be revealed.
- Verse 18: Therefore, we should "take care how we listen" to Jesus' teaching so we can share with others.

HOW TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS TO EVERYONE

Usually, in our Evangelical church world, we approach this as an individual thing.

- But it seems closer to the mind of Jesus, and might be more effective, to tell the good news together, as a whole church.
- The Twelve went out together (Luke 9:2) and the seventy-two went out in pairs (Luke 10:1).
- What can we do together?

Bringing outsiders into our healthy, vibrant, church family is our best outreach strategy.

- Invite to our big worship gatherings.
- Invite to our small groups.
- Then, talk about it and answer questions.

Will you prayerfully consider who to invite to a church service or small group?

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

REVIEW

- Review Peter's January 19th teaching and study guide.
- What were the highlights of Luke 8:16-18 or Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- Use the S.P.E.C.K. method to reflect on and apply the teaching:
 - S: Sins to confess
 - P: Promises to claim
 - E: Examples to follow
 - C: Commands to obey or Christ to rest in
 - K: Knowledge or insights to consider

DISCUSS

Discuss Peter's suggestion that telling the good news of the kingdom of God **together** as a healthy, vibrant, church family is closer to the mind of Jesus and more effective than trying to do it alone.

- What are some reasons to agree with Peter?
- What are some reasons to disagree with him?
- What are some ways we could tell and explain the good news to more people, especially those who seem very far from God?
- In your opinion, what role does prayer play in telling the good news?
- Why would you (or why would you not) consider inviting not-yet-Christians to a Cornerstone church service or small group?

PRAYERS

Pray for the entire Cornerstone family to tell the good news about the kingdom of God whenever the Lord gives them opportunities.

Pray Colossians 1:9-13 for the group.