

True Disciple #11 – Preaching

Welcome to True Disciple #11. This is Rod Nichols and I'm excited that you are listening and growing. As always, I want to remind you that you can find the rest of the messages by clicking on the Weekly Messages button under the current week message on the front page at www.TrueDisciple.Info or by clicking on More in the upper menu on any page. These messages are purposely short, because I know that everyone is busy and I also want you to feel comfortable listening to them over and over again. When transforming your mind, repetition of ideas is paramount.

Today I'm teaching on Preaching.

I hear you mind working and so I'm going to see if I can read your mind. I'll be that you're thinking, that you're not a preacher, but that would be incorrect, so hang in there and let me explain. The problem is in how we interpret this word preacher. We think of the Pastor or Minister who stands in front of the church or in front of crowds of people and "preaches". However, as you'll see in this message, that was never Jesus' intention. So, let's get started with the study.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus has been resurrected and is appearing to the disciples for the last time and here are His final instructions:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

In order to know exactly what Jesus was telling them, let's examine the original language (Greek). The word that is translated as preach is Kerusso, which means to herald or proclaim openly. By the way, it's easy for you to examine the original language, just do a Google search for interlinear Bible and choose one of the online Bibles. Type in the scripture you are studying and it will show you the scripture with words underlined. If you click on those words, it will show you the Greek or Hebrew word with definitions. It's a great way to understand what they were trying to say.

So, again, the definition of Kerusso is to herald or proclaim openly and initially, this definition of preach sounds like what Pastors do in the pulpit every Sunday, but we have to look at this culturally, as well.

At that time, they didn't have telephones, cell phones, email, texting, and social media. In order to announce something to the world, people went into the streets and make announcements. The King or ruler would send a "herald" into the town square to make an announcement "hear ye, hear ye".

So, this was Jesus' intention when He gave the disciples the Great Commission to go into the world and preach the gospel. The gospel, meaning the good news of salvation for all mankind through the death of Jesus and the resurrection into new life. Jesus wanted His true disciples to go into the world and proclaim the good news to everyone. And He meant that to be ALL His disciples, not just those who have the title of Pastor.

Prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus also told the disciples (in Acts 1) that they were to wait in Jerusalem for the arrival of the Holy Spirit; that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit and would receive power to be Jesus' witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and throughout the whole earth.

So, if we are in a courtroom and the attorney calls a witness, what is their function in the trial? It's to tell what they saw, heard, and experienced. Jesus wanted His true disciples to be witnesses to what they saw, heard, and experienced. Now, these were actual eye witnesses and we are about 2,000 years removed, but we can still tell what we saw and heard through the word of God and how it impacted our lives – this is known as your testimony.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus wasn't just speaking to the 11 disciples, He was speaking prophetically to all true disciples. We know this, because they didn't have the current modes of transportation and communications, so it was impossible for the 11 disciples to reach the whole earth. Jesus was speaking to them and us. We are to go preach, proclaim the gospel to the whole world and be His witnesses to those who don't know Him.

You don't have to go to Bible college or Seminary (unless God tells you to) to be this type of preacher. All you have to do is to share what Jesus did on the cross for all of mankind. How we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23a), but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus (Romans 6:23b). All you have do is confess that Jesus is Lord

and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved (Romans 10:9). Then tell your story of confessing Jesus and how your life has changed for the better.

Jesus wants us to “preach” to our family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and anyone else we meet. You don’t need to have a Bible or a pulpit, just memorize the 3 scriptures in Romans (3:23, 6:23 and 10:9), so you can share them and then tell your story. If they ask questions that you can’t answer, just say, “that’s a great question and I don’t know the answer, so let me find out for you. Do you have any other questions?” The key here is that you don’t need to worry about what you are going to say. If you’re obedient to be Jesus’ witness and preach, He will be obedient to give you the words to speak.

That’s it for message #11. As always, I hope you will take this message to heart and become a preacher and witness for Jesus. And I hope you will tune in next week for message #12 on Love. The Apostle Paul said “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” This is going to be a great, life changing message that you don’t want to miss.

Thanks again for listening and have an awesome, blessed week!