

## Union United Methodist Church

### Sermon Outline: **Called to Bear Fruit in the Divine Purpose & Vision of Christ,** **Part 4: Doing the Works of Jesus**

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Pastor Michael Larbi

Readings: **Acts 3:1-10; Matthew 9:9-13**

#### 1. **Recall: The Divine Purpose & Vision of Christ.**

- **Salvation for All in Christ - the Four ALLs.**

- ALL need to be saved - Romans 3:23
- ALL may be saved - 1 Timothy 2:4
- ALL may know they are saved - John 1:12, Romans 8:16
- ALL may be saved to the utmost (completely) - 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24

- **Divine Reconciliation for All - Our Collective Ministry**

God has called all of us Christians to help other people to become reconciled to God. We are called Ambassadors of Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 NRSV

- **We are Called to Bear Fruit:** John 15:1-10

- **Without Christ and His Anointing, We Cannot Bear Fruit** – John 15:3-5

- **Inside us, the Holy Spirit helps us**

Isaiah 11:1-2 describes the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, might (energy, strength, power,...), counsel ...

- **The Holy Spirit Comes Upon us**, to empowers us to be effective witnesses for Christ – Acts 1:8

#### 2. **The Works of Jesus**

- **Why Did Jesus Come?**

**“The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.**

9No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

10This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister."

1 John 3:8-10 NIV

**"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."** John 10:10 NIV

**"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."** John 10:10 NRSV

- **What Did the Holy Spirit Come Upon Jesus For?**

After his time of temptation in the wilderness while he fasted 40 days, Jesus came to the synagogue in Nazareth on the sabbath day, stood up to read, and read this portion of scripture from Isaiah 61 about himself:

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me  
to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**

Luke 4:18-19 NRSV

These are the exact works Jesus did and continues to do today. Note that he did these works because the Spirit of God was on him.

In Matthew 9, we see how he did some of these things - **"While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.** 11When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12On hearing this, **Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."** Matthew 9:10-12 NIV

- **We, the Disciples of Jesus, Are Sent to Do The Same**

After his resurrection he appeared to the apostles:

21Again **Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."**22**And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.** John 20:21-22 NIV

What was Jesus sending them (and us) to do? The works he did and greater!

**"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father."**

John 14:12 NRSV

In Matthew, we see further instructions given by Jesus, which we call the Great Commission:

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

### 3. **Making & Nurturing Disciples, and Doing the Works of Jesus**

As we say last week, the great commission involves:

- Making disciples
- Baptizing them
- Nurturing them.

Last week we saw in In Acts 2 the making and nurturing of disciples being carried out by the apostles and the disciples.

In Acts 3:1-10 we see a demonstration of the works of Jesus being carried out by Peter.

“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup>Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.” Acts 3:1-2 NIV

This is a similar situation to some of the situations that Jesus encountered. E.g. in John 5 we saw that Jesus healed a man who had been crippled for 38 years at the pool of Bethesda. In another instance, Jesus healed a man who was blind from birth - John 9.

○ **Making Disciples - giving the world what we have**

This involves preaching the word.

It also involves inviting people to receive and believe in Christ.

It also involves demonstrating the power that is in the name of Jesus.

When the man begged Peter for money, the scripture says:

<sup>4</sup>Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” <sup>5</sup>So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

**<sup>6</sup>Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” <sup>7</sup>Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.** Acts 3:4-7 NIV

The result? “He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup>When all the people saw him walking and praising God” Acts 3:8-9 NIV

This is very instructive for us.

What do we have that the world around us needs?

What we have includes:

- Jesus and the name of Jesus
- The Holy Spirit in and upon us
- The eternal life of God in us - this life in us is the light of men

- Experience of the love and grace of God
- ... and much more.

No Christian has an excuse. We have so much that the oppressed world around us needs. God has indeed called us to do the works of Jesus to bring release and freedom to the oppressed and captives to sin and sickness and guilt and shame, etc.

Preaching the Word is not optional.

As Paul tells Timothy: we are to

**2Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage– with great patience and careful instruction.”** 2 Timothy 4: 2 NIV

*Doing the works of Jesus - demonstrating the power of God and the name of Jesus is also not optional.*

### ○ **Nurturing Disciples**

As a reminder, in Acts 2, we see how disciples were nurtured:

41 **Those who accepted his message were baptized**, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

**Note four important things: teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer  
This is the essence of nurturing disciples.**

In our nurturing disciples, we are also to continue to bear fruit, and do the works of Jesus.