

OPEN

“We have no other reason for living on earth than to be of help to others. If this were not the case, it would be best for God to kill us and let us die as soon as we are baptized and have begun to believe. But He permits us to live here in order that we may bring others to faith, just as He brought us.” ~ Luther

The calling to tell the Good News about Jesus means we have to die to self. What has to die is our unbelieving sinful nature that wants to boast of us. We need to say, in effect, “I don’t care whether I boast of myself. I don’t care whether anyone else boasts of me either. I’m going to boast in the Lord. To say this means we have to die. In our baptism, God puts the old sinful nature to death and raises up the new you in Christ by the power of His Word.

What do you believe are the biggest obstacles to sharing the “Good News” with others? List your top three, in ranking order.

Keep these top three in the back of your mind.

Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

How is the “Good News” summarized in verses 9-10?

The Four Areas of Discipleship?

GET Christ’s forgiveness in Word and Sacrament.

GROW in grace and knowing Him.

GLOW with His love in your callings and through your local church.

GO tell the Good News about Him in your callings (vocations) and through your local church.

Today, concludes our Discipleship 101 study with the theme **GO**. This “**G**” like all the other “**Gs**” is an ongoing part of our living as disciples of Jesus. This is *the end of the beginning* as followers of our precious Lord.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

This passage is going to help us consider some good questions we might use to spark a dialogue with an unbeliever.

Looking at verses 1 and 2, what might be a good question to start a discussion? *Ex:* What’s the biggest challenge to living in a world beyond your control? Think about some questions.

Look at verse 11. What questions might help the unbeliever notice eternal longings within them, that maybe they haven’t ever articulated before?

No matter what question you ask, follow it up with something along the lines of, “So what makes you say that?” You are simply trying to better understand where they are coming from, **NOT** asking to correct.

Colossians 4:2-6

What is the heart of what Paul is praying for, here? How is prayer connected to your “**GOING**?”

1 Timothy 2:3-6

What is God’s desire?

What does this tell you about who needs the “Good News”? Does this really include the person with blue hair and a ring in their nose?

Read 2 Peter 3:9

Mark 4:30-32

If we consider the “*Good News*” a seed to be sown and scattered into the hearts of people God puts near us, then what are we learning from this parable about the role of “time” in this process?

What are you responsible for in the Great “**GOing**” mission and what is the Holy Spirit responsible for?

How critical is it to establish a relationship with someone so your sowing is authentic (*from the unbeliever’s perspective*)?

1 Corinthians 3:5-7

What is Paul helping us to understand as we move out to share the “good news?”

What is critical to a loving “team,” who is seeking to share the “Good News?” Is it worth preparing a plan and praying about a strategy?

Prayer Time:

Pray about upcoming opportunities to “share” the Good News. What prayers should be included to address the top 3 obstacles to your witnessing?

Is there any possibility of your Great28 group working together to “share” the Gospel with someone who is ripe to hear it? Pray about and discuss any opportunities the Lord may have put before you.

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Don’t forget, this is only the end of the beginning! Keep up the dialogue.