

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

***But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.***

Isaiah 40:31

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Personal ministry – a nudge or burden for some type of ministry it's not the same as feeling guilty or pity or just recognizing the need and calling the church...

Some of you may be in the middle of a battle with God over an issue you have a burden for. Maybe God is inviting you out of where you are comfortable to stretch your faith...

Matthew 14:13-33 ...a very familiar story, but some great truths.

¹³ ***When Jesus heard what had happened,*** (John the Baptist was beheaded by Herodias) ***he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.*** ¹⁴ ***When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.***

¹⁵ ***As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the village and buy themselves some food."*** (I think the disciples were really hungry)

The Problem with Personal Ministry v.16 Seeing the need and doing something about it.

¹⁶ ***Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*** ¹⁷ ***"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.*** The disciples began to make excuses. Just like us. Think of all the excuses we make for not doing things.

Are we sensing a need in our church or community. Many are pray and pay members – I'll pray for that or pay for someone else to do it but I can't do it myself.

v.18 The Process of Personal Ministry

Jesus says to all... “bring me what you have”

18 **“Bring them here to me,” he said**

Our excuses ... I don't have time (then bring me what time you have)

I don't know much (bring me what you know)

The Product of Personal Ministry

19 **And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.**

v.19 After Jesus handed them the bread they

The disciples did what they knew how to do. Trusting that God would do what only He could do. Do what you can, God has a plan. After Jesus gave them the fish, they did what they knew how to do (hand out fish) and let God do his thing.

The disciples didn't say let's start a business, they knew it was all God. Jesus had an agenda; he was trying to grow faith because he was about to hand this over to the disciples and they would need great faith.

v.23 immediately ...the stories are connected...the next lesson in faith.

22 **Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.** That must have been interesting trying to get them to go home after he healed them and fed them.

23 **After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.** It was like a rowing machine all night long.

25 **Shortly before dawn** (they were out there all night) **Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.** 26 **When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, “It's a ghost,” they said and cried out in fear.** Proof the bible is true – Made themselves look dumb. Matthew is writing this and he's kinda laughing and thinking, man, we were so pathetic. Why didn't we just trust that Jesus was in control. I would not write this about myself!

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid. **28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."** Peter understood, "fish, now the boat" it can't be my idea, it's not jump out of the boat and trust Jesus, it's when Jesus asks me to do things that don't make sense I just have to do what I can do (lots of dumb stuff has been done in God's name and then God is asked to bless it!) but when God calls you to step out, it's a test of your faith and he can bless that.

Could YOU pray the prayer of Peter – if this is from you invite me to come to you on the water (or out of your comfort zone).

When God invites us to do things that don't make sense, he will do what only he can do (not doing and asking God to bless it).

Peter did what he could do, get out of a boat and walk...

Jesus did what he could do – make the water walkable...again, you do what you can do and God will do what ONLY HE can do.

That is the Christian experience simply stated...

29 "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" I think Jesus is not fussing at Peter; he's like a parent who says "You were so close, you almost had it"

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Now they knew we are in the presence of God in the flesh, we thought it with the fish, but now we know.

You are in a church today because people stepped out of the boat and started a church in Union Valley, Texas.

For some of you, God is inviting you out of your comfort zone right now. To do what you know how to do and let God do what only he can do. If you do, God will lead you into a big faith you never thought possible. If you don't, you'll never know what God might have done through you.

Will you participate with God?

For some of you it means stepping out in faith and teaching, it means joining a small group, it means talking to your family about a relationship with Christ, it means going on a mission trip....