

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

April 3, 2016 – The Replacements

The Denver Broncos have to replace Peyton Manning...will the replacement ever be as good? The movies are good at doing this...but does it really work? The person who replaced Tommy Lee Jones as Capt. Call in Return to Lonesome Dove...or the guy who “replaced” John Wayne in the remake of True Grit.

Everybody wants to be indispensable, necessary or irreplaceable in your job – you get raises, new opportunities and special treatment. And this is why people go to college or work hard so that everybody knows you're needed. Of course, the flip side to this is that it's easy to replace a bad worker!

If you're a mom, you know how indispensable you are when your kids are little. Everybody else can be gone, but when Mom is gone or sick...it's really bad!

When Jesus began changing the world by asking people to follow him, they just walked around with him and watched him – feed thousands, heal the sick, even raised people from the dead, and soon there were thousands of followers because they saw, heard, watched what Jesus was doing...they were experiencing him.

Jesus has to be experienced not explained.
Over and over, people said just COME and SEE!

When Jesus died on a cross, the followers dropped to only a handful. THEN he rose again and everyone thought he was back to stay, and they thought the guys who killed him are in trouble now! Can you imagine how the guys that had whipped Jesus so horribly – what they must have been thinking when they heard he was back!

The after Easter story ...

And Jesus did the one thing they thought would never happen again ... he said he was leaving again.

A replacement was needed for Jesus. But Jesus had a plan ... YOU not individually, but Y'all!

Acts 1:8-9 *8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you (cowboy version, Y'all) will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

9 *After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

Jesus said YOU will be my witnesses, YOU will do what I have been doing here on earth.

Guess what ... big surprise ... Jesus' plan worked.

In 65 AD, there were 1 million followers of Jesus out of the 181 million people on earth or roughly 6%.

Today, there are 6.9 billion people on earth, and 2.2 BILLION are followers of Jesus – or 31.6%!

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 *12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

15 *Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.*

16 *And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.*

17 *If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?*

18 *But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.* God has perfectly positioned you to do something only you can do.

Very few people woke up this morning and thought, I have to go to RHCC this morning because they can't do this without me, but that is actually true.

I am the most replaceable guy here.

For example – it took over 50 people to make last week happen. Arena team, Facilities team – chairs, sweeping the floors, cleaning the bathrooms; the Chuck wagon and Kitchen teams – two days getting the tacos ready, ladies doing all the serving...mowing the grounds, moving things around; Music – many hours every week getting ready

19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. Paul has a funny way of saying everyone is important.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Four practical things you can do: Goal is to get you “out of your seat and on your feet” – the body of Christ has lots of butts, those who just set, they are important cause people don’t like going to an empty church!

Get involved in a Bible study – that’s where you get connected to the body of Christ.

Serve on a team –

Give – all the projects you see happening come straight out of that green bucket that hangs in the back.

Invite people – one of my favorite things to do is hear how people made it to RHCC, almost every one of them is because somebody invited them.

When every person plays their part in the body of Christ, people experience Jesus...you are irreplaceable...