

Text: Luke 8:1-3

Title: Jesus's Message and His Co-workers

Truth: Those who helped Jesus had a very important ministry role.

Date/Location: February 11, 2024 at FBC

Introduction

Jesus continued throughout the nation preaching about the kingdom of God. He was assisted by several individuals.

I. The Good News Preached

A. I think it is easy to overlook that Jesus was teaching “glad tidings.” This is the word that means “to announce good news.” Early in the gospel Luke emphasizes repentance. Even later in Luke 8 he records about those who do not see or understand the message. There is a judgment side of the message, and we can get our eyes focused there. Many people do—they think Christianity is just doom and gloom and judgment and no joy.

B. That is a complete mischaracterization of Christianity. Those outcomes are the results of *not* following Christ. Those are the default position of the world. Doom and judgment is just the normal state of things, and Jesus has come to undo that.

That is good news. The Christian message is not, in the first place, bad news. Although it presupposes some bad news, it itself is good. It is a relief to know that God has seen our state and done something about it. It is good news to find out that you can be rescued from a condition in which your heart is darkened against God, in which the world is quite literally going to Hell. Jesus's message is a happy one, a joyful one, a relief, etc.

C. Focus on this notion as you think of sharing the good news with your co-workers, neighbors, and others. Why do we get all worried about sharing good news with people?

II. The Co-Laborers

A. The Twelve. Luke only devotes a few words to this. Not much explanation is required because we run into this fact many times in the gospels.

- B. The Women. Luke devotes two entire verses to some details here because this is not as well known. There are three named:
1. Mary Magdalene, dispossessed of seven demons.
 2. Joanna who was the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward. She was a highly-placed individual in the government at the time.
 3. Susanna.
- C. And then there are "many others"—women who are unnamed.
- D. These women helped the ministry of Jesus in a very practical way—by providing from the means that they had at their disposal. Perhaps they had some financial means to provide for food and occasional lodging or other travel expenses. Perhaps they had time and freedom to serve in meal preparation and other necessary chores. However they served, the point is that they served and helped to advance the good news.

Conclusion

You too have a ministry to accomplish. Directly sharing good news at one time, and serving the church so that others can do the same at another time.

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