

Notes from the Sunday Service “ Sow What” from Ps. Lance Janes.

Study Outline

GCC Sermon: Sunday 17th Nov. 9am & 11am

Speaker: Ps. Lance Janes

Title: Sow What

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:1-20

Jesus is speaking to ‘them’ – his twelve disciples, after rising from the dead. He is laying the foundation of the church for all the ages to come.

The early church as established and led by these disciples.

Read Acts 6.1, 7, 11.25-6.

- What is happening to the church?
- What factors are causing this to happen?

These new believers were also Jesus’ disciples, and so are we. We are Christians, those who belong to Christ, who are called by his name, who are (or should be) becoming Christ like. To become like him we must know Him.

- How well do you think most Christians know Jesus?
- How can we get to know Him well?

This Great Commission is to us as much as it was to ‘them’, the 12 disciples.

They were called ‘apostles’. What does apostle mean?

Some like to call themselves apostles in the sense that they are somehow superior to ordinary disciples. Is this what apostle means?

A disciple is one who follows Jesus; an apostle is one who is sent. Are we sent?

See Acts 1.21-26

The first apostles were those who had seen Jesus in person. So is ‘apostle’ relevant for anyone today?

Yes, we are sent, but we haven’t seen Jesus personally, so in the New Testament understanding of the name ‘apostle’, we can’t be one. What do you think?

Lance suggested that instead of ‘Apostle’, we could use the term ‘Ambassador’. But again, there are only a few official ambassadors in any country. Yet, when we travel to other countries, in one sense we are ambassadors of our country, so in that kind of context, we could also be said to be apostles – those who are sent by God to represent Jesus Christ on this earth wherever we go.

This great commission then is for all who know Christ – we all have some part to play.

Last week's prophecy

The graph showed a line leading from the negative to the positive. But as there has always been positive growth in GCC, Lance suggested that this prophecy is more of a vision, an idea, that there will be exponential growth in the church in the future.

Lineal growth is people added to the church one by one.

Exponential growth – people bring people who then bring others, who then bring others.....

What do you think 'exponential' means?

Dictionary:

An exponent is a person or thing that explains or interprets.... In algebra, a small number written above and to the right of a symbol or quantity to how many times the symbol or quantity is to be used as a factor. The prophecy example X3 indicates growth to the power of 3

At times our growth has been lineal, at times exponential. The vision is of accelerated growth.

Who wants to be part of that growth? How can we do it?

4 key factors enable us to grow

1. Good music and worship.

2. Great youth programmes

3. A great sense of community – Biblical teaching is important. You can grow a church without it, but GCC has it as a core fundamental to growth.

Your comments on these three points?

These deliver lineal growth. An exponential component is needed for accelerated growth.

The X3 factor in Matthew 28.18-20 is: ***Make Disciples***

A Chinese house church began with 100 people and within five years reached 55,000 – That's accelerated growth.

Their vision: essentials for growth

- A hunger for spiritual change in China. Government opposition meant that Christians must be bold in spite of the threat. They must be totally committed to sowing and reaping. See Acts 4.29-33.

- Love for each other
- New believers were baptized soon after conversion.
- Locals were put in leadership positions.
- Multiple leaders established.
- Unpaid lay leadership put in place. Everyone saw doing church as their job. Do some Christians tend to want to leave it all to the 'paid' leadership?

Consider these and comment on their effectiveness. In what ways would they bring about growth?

- Growth and fruitfulness for new believers and spiritual growth for every believer was expected.
- Original music expressing their stories
- Teaching focus on evangelism training
- Accountability practiced at every level
- New believers model the behavior of older/established believers
- All education levels catered for
- Prayer for unbelievers and their evangelism. The whole church focused on winning new believers.

Comment on these

4.The X3 key factor

If everyone committed to reach one new believer in 6 months and three (or 2) in 18 months, we would see exponential growth.

We need to make that decision to sow the seed of the gospel, to bring people to Christ.

Sunday notes prepared by:
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