



OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Mid Week Message

Gather... Connect... Grow... Impact!

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

THE TIME HAS COME!

“Woman, believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” John 4

Jesus made this interesting statement to a woman living in a town where she was not accepted by Jesus’ people. “Those Samaritans” were worshipping at a place with a religious expression that prevented Jesus’ people from associating with them. Sounds like what we are experiencing in our society with our multiple denominations, styles of worship, safeguarding church’s traditions and doctrines, and lack of acceptance of others. The times may have changed drastically over the past 2000 years, but human behavior has always stayed the same.

What makes followers of Jesus (aka Disciples) different from all other groups is our mission to meet people where they are (like this woman in Samaria) and help them discover the place their hearts crave...the Kingdom of God; a place of grace and acceptance. It is in this Kingdom where we discover the fullness of life, a balanced life, our best life.

Our responsibility as Disciples is three-fold.

1. We must grow everyday into our understanding of God and live the kind of life Jesus described in the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5,6,7) and with his life. The more we mature, the less we control. The less mature we are, the more we feel the need to control. “Letting go (of our need to control) and letting God (lead us where we need to go)” is our priority! We can’t fulfill our mission without the effort to grow!
2. Maturity builds God’s Kingdom with love reflected in our actions and behavior, not our traditions, denominations, doctrines, or worship. Changed lives lead to changing lives.
3. Changed lives lead to communicating God’s grace and mercy to those who, like the Samaritan woman, have lost their identity as a child of God. If we seek others with our heart, we will discover ways, methods, styles, and statements that will capture the imagination of the lost...on their terms...not ours.

Jesus was not being judgmental when he told the religious leaders who were brow beating people, **“Not everyone who says ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom”**. He was simply stating that the Kingdom of God is the absence of human control, brow beating, selfishness, division, negativity, and all those negative expressions that tend to creep into churches and cause people to find other alternative ways to find the God. Jesus came to reveal the beauty of God’s Kingdom we are to create on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus’ statement that the *“time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth”* could not be more relevant for us today. People seek God’s grace and mercy. Now is the time to grow our faith, learn to be led by the Spirit, and seek those who pray for God’s deliverance. I truly believe we are being groomed to be God’s response to those who pray for mercy!

I get more excited about our mission every day!

Danny