

Pastor's Corner



Dear First Christian Family,

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

Ever feel discouraged about the tough stuff in the world? Maybe a little helpless, because you doubt that just one person can make it better?! I get it. I do too, sometimes. Indeed, it seems kind of naïve to think there’s *anything* one tiny, imperfect human can do to make a difference. But then I think of those eleven disciples. When the dust cleared after Jesus’ Resurrection, only eleven remained. They were frightened, maybe a little freaked out, and had definitely failed Jesus big-time...yet they were still standing, and still willing to do the work. And when Jesus sent them out, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.... well, can you see the difference they made? Sure, it wasn’t *just* the eleven—soon the vacancy on the team was filled, and other women and men joined in the work along the way, and the church grew. But the actions of those original disciples caused a ripple that quickly covered the globe.

The reason we can know with undeniable certainty that we alone *can* make a difference is that Jesus commanded us to do so. *Commanded us*. Do the work, he said, the sacred work I am calling you to. And God never *never* sends us out without first equipping us for what he’s asking us to do. We hear this from the prophets, “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand” (Isaiah 41:10). And we hear it from Jesus himself, “[Y]ou will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8).

We have been empowered by God to do what is right. And “right” always ripples out far beyond us. And what is “right”? Right is whatever glorifies God. Right is whatever causes us to set aside our own desires and lead with his love and grace instead. Right is whatever shows love to our neighbor and this world. Right is whatever is compassionate and caring. Mighty things will happen, not because of anything we have done, but because God is behind it all, equipping, empowering, transforming. You *can* and *do* make a difference each and every time you say “yes” to following Christ. So, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). And may the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (from Philippians 4:7). I love you all dearly.

Kara