

**June 28, 2015**  
**Principles, Practices & Christ's Mission**  
Matt. 28:18:20, Acts 1:6-8



**Mon. 6/29/15 – Read Acts 1:1-8, Matthew 28: 18-20**

Surely God could have written the news of Jesus in the clouds or spoken it from the skies. Instead, God's primary way of carrying out the mission was to use people: "You will be my witnesses." What factors made it more effective for God use people as witnesses? Whose witness has shaped your life? How can you pass that good news on to someone else today?

**Tue. 6/30/15 – Read Luke 4:16-21, Luke 19:1-10**

Jesus quoted from (and adapted) Isaiah 61:1-3 to define his mission. "To preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" has a nice poetic ring. What can you do TODAY to live into the meaning of those words in the gritty, unpoetic, day-to-day realities of life?

**Wed. 7/1/15 – Read Romans 6:15-33**

Being a disciple means giving control of our life to the Lord who can give us true freedom. We don't usually think much about slavery so Paul's image may startle us. Sin, he says, turns all who submit to it into slaves. What actions, feeling or thoughts did (or still do) hold you in their grip? How did (or will) Jesus' love free you from them?

**Thu. 7/3/15 – Read Hebrews 10:19-25**

We all need encouragement to keep us going at times. That is what the writer to the Hebrews had in mind when he wrote verse 24. What factors in your world make you want to seek out other Christians? When have you needed someone you trust to give you a boost in your faith life? Is there someone else who might need that from you today?

**Fri. 7/3/15 – Read John 4:19-35**

The Samaritan woman Jesus met at the well had already had five husbands and was thirsty for 'living water.' The disciples were surprised that Jesus talked to her at all, and so was she, at first. But Jesus saw a different potential in her, and she became the first 'preacher' of the good news in the gospel of John. Is there someone you see in a negative light who might be worth a fresh look through Jesus' eyes?

**Sat. 7/4/15 – Read Matthew 22:34-40**

Loving our neighbor as yourself can be very challenging at times. God calls us to love others the way God loves us – unconditionally. Loving our neighbors as much as we love ourselves means showing unwarranted love with no hesitation. What has stopped you from loving someone relentlessly today? How can you love them unconditionally tomorrow?



**HASTINGS**  
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