

Setting Direction.

Vision & Mission studies

ARPC Mission Grow

Key verse: Colossians 1:28-29.

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, ***struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.***



Big Idea: To Grow in Christ is about gaining Spirit filled confidence to live out the gospel in our words and actions knowing Jesus is always with us and will never let us down.

Kick Off

St. Francis of Assisi, patron of peace, animals and the environment, is often quoted for this statement; "**Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary**"

Discuss whether you agree or disagree with St Francis, why/why not?

STUDY

Read Matthew 13:31-33.

These two 'kingdom growth' parables come in the middle of a whole chapter of kingdom parables. Jesus is teaching about the kingdom to correct misunderstanding, confusion and false expectations about the kingdom that his followers held too.

1. What are we to learn from the mustard seed parable about Kingdom growth?
2. What are we to learn from the yeast parable about the how the kingdom grows?

*The kingdom **grows** because its life source is Jesus the 'seed' and it **spreads** because of the power of the Holy Spirit acting like 'yeast' in the kingdoms of this world. Our mission as a church in wanting to grow in Christ is us growing to understand Jesus correctly so we will live effective Christian lives.*

3. Jesus said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”** Matthew 28:18-20.

This passage is known as the Great Commission. What comfort is there in the bold type sections for us to obey Jesus?

Some people (like Francis of Assisi) think that living a good Christian life is the same thing as telling someone the gospel. This is not true but the two things are connected. How does the ‘great commission’ help us to not make either of these two mistakes:-

- Living but not speaking

- Speaking but not living.

THINK AND APPLY

The greater our conviction of Jesus being the way the truth and the life, the greater our impact will be for the Kingdom of God in this world, regardless of our circumstances. A Christian life has three dimensions, confession, experience and mission. How are you “growing” at these?

- Confession is living a life of ongoing repentance and faith shown in your words and actions.
- Experience is prayerfully looking for the evidences in your life of the new heart and of God’s Spirit guided work in your life. Things like wanting to be with other believers, hungering after the apostles teaching, thanksgiving and joy.
- Mission is looking out into your community and actually being concerned for lost people... wanting to work at stopping evil and aiming to do good and make a difference as you are able.

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read 1 Peter
4:1-11**