



Discipleship

Ideas for the Iowa District West

Introduction

The following “Discipleship Ideas” from the readings are not intended for any other purpose than to provide ideas of application from each reading that may be included in the taught and preached Word for this particular Sunday to help teach a life of discipleship. L.C.M.S. pastors are gifted at preaching Law and Gospel, but often lack in the matter of personal applications to the Word. This tool is for no other reason than to offer some seeds of thought to do that.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES B

October 25, 2015

From C.P.H. About the Cover: *(The Bulletin Cover information pertains to the readings for Reformation and not the twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost. This issue of “Discipleship Helps” pertains to the readings for the twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost)*

First Reading; Jeremiah 31:7–9

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’

⁸Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: It is very difficult to find application in a reading that is filled with Gospel promise like this one, but it is certainly there. You find it especially in verses seven and nine where the remnant of Israel returns to the Lord with shouts of praise as well as with weeping and pleas for mercy. As disciples of this modern age, we are blessed by God’s grace to do this very thing today as well when we return to the Lord regularly in confession of sins and the reception of the holy absolution as well as with our life of praise and thanksgiving. Because

of God's grace we can find ourselves at the foot of the cross filled with sorrow for our sin and filled with the joy of forgiveness in God's love for us.

Epistle Reading Hebrews 7:23–28

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Like the former reading for this Sunday, this reading is filled with Gospel and no specific application. When that happens it is vital to import application and this is generally not an easy thing to do. In this particular case, we could focus on gratitude to God for the great High Priest who lives to make intercession for us. We could also focus on how that gratitude might appear. It ought not to be merely in words, but in deeds also. Gratitude can and should be expressed in our response to God's mercy for us, even in our financial sacrifice for His mission. This text could potentially be a financial stewardship text importing this application of gratitude.

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:46–52

⁴⁶And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." ⁵⁰And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." ⁵²And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" That was the plea of the blind man in the reading. He was named and identified and became a recipient of the Lord's mercy in recovering the sight he had lost. As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are also all named and recipients of God's mercy. Like this man, after immediately recovering his sight followed Jesus on the way, we too, because of God's mercy can follow Jesus on the way. We can learn from His Word. We can sacrifice our time to serve the Savior in His mission of bringing the lost and dying the refreshing Word of the God. In addition we can support the work of the Gospel with our gifts of thankfulness to God for all His benefits to us.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read Jeremiah 31:7–9

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’

⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

1. What is meant by “the chief of nations”?
2. What is meant in God’s promise to “bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest part of the earth”?
3. What is meant by “pleas for mercy”?
4. Who are the children of the “father to Israel”?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read Hebrews 7:23–28

²³ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

6. Why is the permanent priesthood that continues forever significant?
7. What function of the priesthood is specifically noted that will go on because of this permanent office assume by the Living Lord Jesus?
8. Why is it significant that this high priest was found holy, innocent, unstained, etc.?

9. What is meant by, “the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever”?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

READ: Mark 10:46–52

⁴⁶And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.” ⁵⁰And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” ⁵²And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

11. What is significant about Bartimaeus’ reference to Jesus as “Son of David”?
12. Why would people have rebuked Bartimaeus from calling out to Jesus?
13. What does this man’s request suggest about his condition?
14. What does this man’s response tell us about his faith and what can it teach us?
15. What application of this Gospel reading will you apply to your life as a result of hearing it today?

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline (Leader's Guide)

Read **Jeremiah 31:7–9**

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’

⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

1. What is meant by “the chief of nations”?

The chief of nations would have been a reference to God’s chosen people and particularly the nation of Israel. In the broader understanding this reference would be the Church on earth.

2. What is meant in God’s promise to “bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest part of the earth”?

This is a reference to the fact that the Church would consist of people from every nation and would include even the Gentile world.

3. What is meant by “pleas for mercy”?

This is a reference to not only the Lord’s help, but also a reference to the desire for His forgiveness. It is accompanied by sorrow (implied in the weeping) over sin.

4. Who are the children of the “father to Israel”?

All those who believe in the promise of the Messiah as Abraham believed and in the fulfillment of that promise in Jesus Christ. (See Galatians 3:7)

5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read: **Hebrews 7:23–28**

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²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

6. Why is the permanent priesthood that continues forever significant?

God had established the office of the high priest anticipating the fulfillment of that office in the work of the Messiah. Because Jesus fulfilled that office and lives and reigns even now, the work of that office is still in effect for us.

7. What function of the priesthood is specifically noted that will go on because of this permanent office assume by the Living Lord Jesus?

That of prayerful intercession in our behalf serving us before the heavenly Father.

8. Why is it significant that this high priest was found holy, innocent, unstained, etc.?

This High Priest would fulfill this office for all people of all time. Because of his holy, innocent and unstained life, his sacrifice for our sins would be complete and totally sufficient so that there would never be need of sacrifice again.

9. What is meant by, “the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever”?

The Law came first which was broken by our original parents. They broke that Law, so God promised an oath to overturn the sting of death. That oath of God was to have One overcome sin for us which followed the giving of the Law. He is our Savior who has been made perfect forever.

10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

READ: Mark 10:46–52

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his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." ⁵²And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

11. What is significant about Bartimaeus' reference to Jesus as "Son of David"?

Bartimaeus obviously recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of promise or as the Messiah promised by God as a descendant of King David.

12. Why would people have rebuked Bartimaeus from calling out to Jesus?

Much like the disciples who earlier attempted to forbid children from being brought to Christ, people in their own selfishness resented this blind beggar from receiving attention from the Lord as well. In our own relationship to Christ, we have tendencies to prohibit others from the Lord as well when we fail to invite them to come to Him who has mercy for all people.

13. What does this man's request suggest about his condition?

His request suggests that he had sight before at some time in that he wishes to have it recovered.

14. What does this man's response tell us about his faith and what can it teach us?

He immediately "followed" Jesus, that is he listened and learned and served the Lord as a result of this mercy that was given to him. We can learn the same response as a result of our Savior's mercy to bring us into his kingdom.

15. What application of this Gospel reading will you apply to your life as a result of hearing it today?

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

How much the people of this world need the mercy of God. The real joy is found in knowing that God wants to pour out His mercy on us all. He expressed it through each of the readings appointed for today. The ready response of those who receive His mercy is shown in the response of the blind man to whom Jesus recovered his sight. Crying out to the Son of David for mercy, we are as blessed to receive it as was that man who after recovering his sight immediately followed Jesus. By God's grace we can do the same.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Heavenly Father, have mercy on us. Assure us of the forgiveness of sin and grant us the peace of knowing Your great love for all mankind. Fill us also with a deep longing to follow after You through growth in Your Word and a willingness to express gratitude for all You have done and continue to do for us. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**