



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-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - SERIES B
November 15, 2015

From C.P.H. About the Cover: Signs of the end abound: wars, earthquakes, nations rising up against one another and falling. “But the end is not yet.” So it has been for many long centuries of injustice and bloodshed, heartache and tears. As with God’s temple in Jerusalem, so His churches in many lands have been reduced to rubble. Yet in confidence, His people go on waiting for His appearing and praying in every place: Our Lord, come

First Reading; Daniel 12:1–3

¹At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: This prophetic utterance of Daniel points to the ultimate day of judgment which is what the final Sundays of the Church year seem to point to each Sunday. There is not much application to be found in this text, but there is a glorious promise for those who believe. Here is where the application can be imported. As modern day disciples we look forward with joy to the ultimate day of judgment, knowing the end result for us because of Christ

will be met with eternal joy and unending glory in heaven. Here in lies the concern for the Church to make this salvation known to the world. That happens not by merely sitting in the pew and making offerings to keep the church doors open. It happens when because of God's grace we reach out with our offerings for the work of ministry and mission and we personally seek ways in which we can personally make Christ known to others. Our focus needs to be that of the salvation of souls, not maintenance of ministry.

Epistle Reading Hebrews 10:11–25

¹¹ Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,"

¹⁷then he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Here we have a reading with some specific applications for our lives of discipleship. Because of Christ the writer encourages the church to:

- 1) draw near with a true heart full assurance of faith
- 2) holding fast the confession of our hope without wavering, and
- 3) consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

How do we do that? It will be different in each situation, but it is to be done none the less. Without encouraging a life of love and good works, we fail to proclaim the full counsel of God. For this reason, the writer of Hebrews further cheers the Church on not to neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. It is here, in worship, that not only do we receive the grace of God in Word and sacrament, but we should also receive this kind of encouragement for a life of discipleship.

Gospel Reading:**Mark 13:1–13**

¹ As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" ²And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

³And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. ¹⁰And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ¹³And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: It would be easy to view this reading solely as one of identifying clarity about what must happen before Christ comes again, but it really is much more than that. It is also an encouragement to be about the business of the Church which is to proclaim the Gospel to every nation, to be willing to make confession of faith in Christ, even in the midst of persecution, and to endure in the faith. Because of the grace of God we can do those things and they should be things we encourage in the Church as a result of proclaiming the full counsel of God's Word.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read Daniel 12:1-3

¹At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

1. What is meant by the time referenced when Michael shall arise?
2. Who is Michael, the great prince who has charge of the people?
3. What is being pictured by the references to brightness and shining stars?
4. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read Hebrews 10:11-25

¹¹Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord:
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"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

5. How does verse 14 make you feel and why?

6. What does it mean to “draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”?
7. How does one “hold fast the confession of hope without wavering”?
8. What does it take to “stir up one another in love and good works”?
9. What is meant by verse 25?
10. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

READ: Mark 13:1–13

¹ As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” ²And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

³And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. ¹⁰And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ¹³And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

11. Why do people marvel at those things like the temple that are made at the hands of man?
12. Why are these temporal structures not to be admired so greatly?
13. Which of the list of things that Jesus mentioned must first take place have already taken place?
14. How does it make you feel about the possibility of persecution for Jesus’ sake?
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 Daniel 12:1-3

¹At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

1. What is meant by the time referenced when Michael shall arise?

The time being referenced in this reading is the period of time prior to the final day of judgement and the resurrection of all flesh.

2. Who is Michael, the great prince who has charge of the people?

The word Michael means, "Who is like God?" His name, along with the title here given him, "the great prince who has charge of your people," specifically points to the Messiah, our Savior Jesus Christ who is Lord of the Church.

3. What is being pictured by the references to brightness and shining stars?

The picture in this reference is one of the glorified condition of the saints in heaven.

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

Read: Hebrews 10:11-25

¹¹Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

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5. How does verse 14 make you feel and why?

Answers will vary, but certainly the feeling of security in regard to salvation should be pointed out.

6. What does it mean to “draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”?

A true heart is one without hypocrisy. The assurance of faith is a faith with the complete confidence of salvation accomplished for us in Christ Jesus.

7. How does one “hold fast the confession of hope without wavering”?

This can only be accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we continue to gather around Word and Sacrament.

8. What does it take to “stir up one another in love and good works”?

This is something that will vary with each and every group of people. Stirring up some may be to simply point to a need, for others it means getting them all on board with the rest of the crew, but in whatever the situation it means doing something about getting others engaged in ministry of love and good works.

9. What is meant by verse 25?

This is an encouragement to encourage people to gather for worship in the Word and the Sacrament.

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

READ: Mark 13:1-13

¹ As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” ²And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these

great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

³And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

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11. Why do people marvel at those things like the temple that are made at the hands of man?

It is natural for mankind to find amazement at things made with the hands of man. The problem is found when those things are placed at a standing above God in the admiration put on them. It had been stated that the Titanic was indestructible and one was quoted to have said that even God could not sink her. Amazement at things made at the hands of man will always disappoint us in the end because nothing man-made will last.

12. Why are these temporal structures not to be admired so greatly?

They will all be destroyed on the final day and even before then they can be destroyed in an instant through natural disasters, man’s destruction (the twin towers in New York City) etc.

13. Which of the list of things that Jesus mentioned must first take place have already taken place?

All of them have taken place.

14. How does it make you feel about the possibility of persecution for Jesus’ sake?

Answers will vary.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

The end of time is sure drawing near. Of this we can be certain! Daniel prophecies this truth, the writer of Hebrews references it with encouragement to await that date with confidence and a life of discipleship and Jesus especially points to that date when the salvation of all mankind will ultimately be known to in this world.

As modern disciples of Christ it does us well to encourage the promotion of the Gospel of Christ until that day comes. Our lives should find themselves filled with love and good works and it is possible to have such a life style because our Savior has made it possible for us.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

O Lord, as the day of judgement draws near, fill our hearts with encouragement to love and do the works of faith. Make us instruments of Your mercy to the world around us and grant a fullness of desire to encourage the Gospel ministry everywhere that all mankind would have knowledge of salvation in Jesus' name. Grant that as we await the Day of the Lord, we do so with confidence and readiness to even face persecution in the face of this fallen world. To that end, O Lord, grant us Your peace. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**