



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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - SERIES C February 21, 2016

From C.P.H. About the Cover: We find joy when children are gathered together, whether it be for Christmas or birthdays. Jesus takes great joy in gathering us together as His children to hear His Word and share in His gifts. When we gather together, we are then equipped to share His gifts with others, so that they, too, may enjoy His gifts of faith and love.

First Reading; Jeremiah 26:8-15

⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?’” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD.

¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your

hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: Jeremiah was threatened with death for speaking the truth of God's Word of judgement on the city of Jerusalem and the house of Israel. No one likes to hear the Word of God's Law spoken to them because it is a Word of judgement, and that is the judgement of God which is far greater than that of man. So what does a disciple of the modern age take from this reading. There are two matters that seem evident. The first is to listen carefully to the Word of God as it applies to you and to your situation in life. The second is to be willing to speak the Word of God's truth in love to others not fearing the potential threats that might accompany. By the grace of God at work within us both of these applications are possible.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: Paul eagerly and willingly writes words of application for the believer in Christ. The first is to "keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us." The second is to "stand firm in the Lord." These are two meaningful examples of applying the Scripture to people's lives and note the reason for such encouragement and the power to do so. It all comes as a result of the Gospel of Christ which transforms us one day to be glorified in body and the power of the Gospel which enables Christ to subject all things to Himself. We have that Gospel encouragement and power to walk and stand in such a way as Christ's disciples.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 13:31–35

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

³²And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those

who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Gospel Discipleship Notes: In the coming to Christ reporting that Herod desired to kill Jesus, the Pharisees were attempting to push Jesus out of town and avoid having to deal with him and with Herod. They merely wanted to keep the peace and avoid speaking the truth of God's Word in love. Jesus, however longs to do just that. He wanted to continue preaching the truth of God's Word and bring the Kingdom of God to all who would receive it in faith. Since we are His disciples today, we can desire the same thing. We also can speak the truth of God's Word to others and continue to do so even in the midst of the world's chaos of sin in which we live. Empowered by Christ as His disciples, we are given the strength and encouragement to do so.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read Jeremiah 26:8-15

⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

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1. What do you imagine was going through Jeremiah's mind as the people were laying hold of him?
2. What "house like Shiloh" was Jeremiah referring to in verse 9? (See Psalm 78:60)
3. Why would prophesying against the city deserve the sentence of death?
4. How was verse 15 kind of prophetic about Christ Jesus?
5. How do you think Jeremiah developed the courage to speak such prophetic words of judgement to these people?
6. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

7. What does it mean to “keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us?”
8. What does it mean to “walk as enemies of the cross of Christ?”
9. How does one feel living in this world but knowing our citizenship is in heaven?
10. What does it mean to stand firm in the Lord?
11. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

READ:

Luke 13:31–35

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³²And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.’ ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

12. Why were the Pharisees eager to tell Jesus to get away because Herod desired to kill Him?
13. What did Jesus mean by calling Herod a fox?
14. To what were the three days Jesus talked about before finishing His course making reference?
15. To what was verse 35 making reference?
16. 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 26:8-15

⁸And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?'" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

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1. What do you imagine was going through Jeremiah's mind as the people were laying hold of him?

Answers will vary.

2. What "house like Shiloh" was Jeremiah referring to in verse 9? (See Psalm 78:60)

It was the temple that would be destroyed as was spoken about in Psalm 78:60. They had chanted their psalms, which told how that God "forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, even the tent which He had pitched among men" (Psalm 78:60)

3. Why would prophesying against the city deserve the sentence of death?

It could be considered a form of blasphemy so they sought to speak to the officials of the great court, charging Jeremiah with sedition by prophesying falsely which was a capital crime. It was the same charge brought against Stephen in Acts 6:13, that he spoke "blasphemous words against the holy place."

4. How was verse 15 kind of prophetic about Christ Jesus?

Jesus was also accused falsely and put to death and innocent blood was brought upon the city and upon the people (all people).

5. How do you think Jeremiah developed the courage to speak such prophetic words of judgement to these people?

This can only be a gift from God the Holy Spirit. It is not something we develop by practice or any other such means. God alone gives the words and the strength to speak them.

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

Read: **Philippians 3:17—4:1**

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

7. What does it mean to “keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us?”

Believers around us can be good examples of Christian discipleship. Those

8. What does it mean to “walk as enemies of the cross of Christ?”

An enemy of the cross of Christ is anyone who would fail to acknowledge Christ as the sole means of salvation or who would reject the Gospel of salvation which was accomplished for us by Christ on the cross of Calvary.

9. How does one feel living in this world but knowing our citizenship is in heaven?

Answers will vary but it should feel as if we are tied to nothing in this world and that our sole claim to anything is our claim to heaven which is really a gift we are given by God.

10. What does it mean to stand firm in the Lord?

Standing firm in the Lord is holding tightly to the faith in which we were baptized and willingly confessing the truth of the Word to the world around us, being unafraid to make that witness following the example of Christ’s disciples in the Church who are living and witnessing such a conviction.

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

READ: **Luke 13:31–35**

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12. Why were the Pharisees eager to tell Jesus to get away because Herod desired to kill Him?

There was likely a two-fold reason for their eagerness, the first being that they simply wanted Jesus out of Jerusalem and out from under their little domain of peace with Rome. The second reason is that Herod probably did want Jesus gone because like John the Baptist He was stirring up the people, not necessarily against Herod, but certainly against Herod's departure from Judaism.

13. What did Jesus mean by calling Herod a fox?

This term referred to Herod's sly, cunning manner of rule but interestingly enough the word was always used in a feminine form might have had some overtone of how Herod was really ruled by his mistress Herodias. This stands in contrast to how Jesus was not sly or cunning, but forthright and direct with His response to this whole matter.

14. To what were the three days Jesus talked about before finishing His course making reference?

Undoubtedly this was a prophetic statement pointing to the matter of His death and resurrection, but it was also a clear statement of the fact that Jesus would continue His ministry as He had until the course of time was finished. He recognized the short time He had left to do the works of God, without being afraid of any man; because His life could not be taken from Him until the time which was appointed by God.

15. To what was verse 35 making reference?

He would be returning to Jerusalem, but at that time it would be one in which He would be hailed as King on Palm Sunday.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

How are you at making a courageous witness of your faith in Jesus Christ and the truth of the Gospel. Jeremiah courageously spoke the truth of God's judgement to the people of Jerusalem at the threat of his life. Paul proposed that all believers stand fast in that kind of conviction and live according to it. Jesus even claimed He would live in that manner until the end of His course of ministry. It takes courage to live as a faithful disciple of Christ and a witness of His Word. By the power of the Gospel at work in us, it is possible. As modern disciples of Christ we are empowered by that Gospel and encouraged in it to do so.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Almighty God, Grant us grace to faithfully stand steadfast in the confession of faith and conviction to the Gospel of salvation. Along with Jeremiah and the prophets, Paul and the apostles and our Lord Jesus Christ, help us to faithfully speak the truth of God's Word to the world around us and to live not as enemies of the cross, but as soldiers of it. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**