

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.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY -- SERIES C

January 17, 2016

From C.P.H. About the Cover: Jesus performed many miracles and many signs. Some were for healing, some were to prove His divinity, and some were to build faith. The first of His signs, or miracles, was at the wedding at Cana. Jesus had compassion on the wedding party, so when the wine ran out, Jesus took it upon Himself to help. Jesus has compassion also upon us and continues to help us.

First Reading; Isaiah 62:1–5

¹For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of
your God.

⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

1st Reading Discipleship Notes: How does it make you feel to know hear that God rejoices over you? For the nation of Israel it make have been more uplifting than for Christians today since as a nation, they were remorseful for their wickedness and saddened by their unfaithfulness to God. This message of God's grace must have felt overwhelmingly wonderful, so much so that their response to God was likely one of thanksgiving and praise and willing obedience. We have a similar reality we should regularly realize. Each time we worship we are like ancient Israel. We confess our wickedness and our sadness over our regular unfaithfulness and God declares our forgiveness and in a sense assures us that He rejoices over us as well. What response to that ought we to offer but that which the ancient Israelites offered, thanksgiving, praise and willing obedience. How's that going for you? What should it look like? Such are the applications of this text.

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 12:1–11

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.

³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Epistle Discipleship Notes: The Holy Spirit empowers all kinds of spiritual gifts to all God's people according to His will for a particular purpose, for the common good of all. Most people fail to acknowledge the spiritual gifts they are given for a number of reasons. Perhaps they feel entirely too busy to put them to use. Maybe they feel those gifts are not really given to them. Sometimes they feel the common good of all is not in need of them. Often they feel the gifts that are needed in the church need to be passed around to others even when they possess gifts that can and should be used. Perhaps therefore, the application of this text lies in tearing down the excuses in our lives and relying on the grace of God to help us use the gifts He gives to us for the common good of all.

Gospel Reading: John 2:1–11

¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Gospel Discipleship Notes: Water and wine, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. How often this text goes in just that direction. And while there is opportunity to possibly make that connection, more is here than the Means of Grace associated with common elements. As modern disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ought to see service rendered for the good of others and we also ought to see encouragement to use gifts as Mary did when she offered a suggestion to the Savior and spoke to the servants as well. The disciples believed in Jesus as a result of what He did for the sake of others and we can look for the same response when we find ourselves engaged in service to the Lord by His grace.

Adult/High School Youth Discipleship Bible Study Outline

Read Isaiah 62:1–5

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

1. What picture comes to your mind when you read verse 1?
2. What is meant by the words of verse 2?
3. What is significant about the land being married?
4. What is being pictured in verse 5?
5. What application from this reading might you make for your life?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1–11

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⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

6. What is meant by spiritual gifts?
7. What does verse three confirm in your mind about your faith in Christ Jesus?

8. What is the purpose of having spiritual gifts given to us in the Church according to verse 7?
9. To whom does God give His spiritual gifts?
10. What prohibits people from utilizing the spiritual gifts God has given to them?
11. How might this reading encourage us to live more serious lives of discipleship with regard to our faith?

READ: John 2:1–11

¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

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12. What do you suppose was on the mind of Mary at the time she spoke to Jesus about the wine having run out?
13. What is meant by the words of Jesus in response to His mother's statement?
14. How was this miracle so much different than the others recorded for us in the Scriptures?
15. What does it mean that this miracle manifested His glory?
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 **Isaiah 62:1-5**

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

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⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

1. What picture comes to your mind when you read verse 1?

While God had throughout history revealed His promise of salvation, it was never with such celebration and excitement. This is a picture of the New Testament Church which is supposed to be filled with excitement about the salvation won for us in Christ Jesus and the thrill of making it known like a bright light for the world to see.

2. What is meant by the words of verse 2?

Think of the nations that have had to deal with Christianity as the official religion and the Kings that have come to faith bringing their people with them. The new name would be several things, but as those who have stuck to the teachings of Luther consider themselves Lutheran Christians, the followers of Christ likewise consider themselves Christian.

3. What is significant about the land being married?

When one is married, he is hopefully prolific and increases and is blessed. There is a union between the ones married and in this case, the land and the people who would increase and become blessed and multiplied.

4. What is being pictured in verse 5?

The Church which is pictured as a marriage in Ephesians 5:21-32

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

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1–11

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6. What is meant by spiritual gifts?

Spiritual Gifts are all those things given to us by the Holy Spirit intended to be used in the Kingdom for the good of others. The first that we recognize is the spiritual gift of faith as noted in verse 3. The list goes on in the successive verses but is not limited to those alone. In the epistle to the Galatians, Paul identifies spiritual gifts which are called the "fruit of the Spirit" there. These are all gifts from the Spirit intended to be used to extend the kingdom of Christ.

7. What does verse three confirm in your mind about your faith in Christ Jesus?

Faith itself is a spiritual gift that comes from the Holy Spirit, not something we achieve on our own.

8. What is the purpose of having spiritual gifts given to us in the Church according to verse 7?

They are intended to be used for the good of others and therefore the extension of the Kingdom.

9. To whom does God give His spiritual gifts?

To "each" believer God extends His gifts.

10. What prohibits people from utilizing the spiritual gifts God has given to them?

Fear, overly busy lifestyle, failure to recognize the spiritual gifts in our lives, the lack of concern about others, unconcern about the extension of the kingdom, etc.

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

READ: John 2:1–11

¹On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

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12. What do you suppose was on the mind of Mary at the time she spoke to Jesus about the wine having run out?

Most likely she had in mind exactly what ended up transpiring. She obviously wanted Jesus to start making Himself known for who He is.

13. What is meant by the words of Jesus in response to His mother's statement?

These were not words to disregard His mother or her good intent, but rather words to clarify as He did so often, the humble nature He had taken upon Himself as God in human flesh.

14. How was this miracle so much different than the others recorded for us in the Scriptures?

Most other miracles were done openly for all to see, this one was limited to only a few. Most other miracles were done to heal, to improve the life of someone, and to display evidence to the multitudes that He is the Christ. This miracle did nothing to improve the life of people, only the celebration they were attending and none were aware of it other than the servants and disciples.

15. What does it mean that this miracle manifested His glory?

Only God could take simple ingredients such as water and change it into fine wine. In Christ having done so, this was evidence of who He is, and thus it gave glory to Him for who He is.

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

Discipleship Bulletin Blub

Isaiah foretold that God would rejoice over His people and marry them once again to the land of promise. They would be given the spiritual blessing of redemption and salvation. St. Paul emphasized the truth that all who have faith in Christ Jesus receive spiritual gifts for the good of all. Christ Himself displayed a use of the gift of His power at a wedding in Cana. As modern disciples given gifts for the purpose of the common good of all, may we find ourselves utilizing those gifts and rejoicing with God in the salvation of His people.

Discipleship Prayer Thought

Almighty God, You rejoice over Your people to whom You have brought redemption through Your Son, Jesus Christ. In doing so You have also blessed us with every spiritual gift by the power of the Holy Spirit. You displayed the gift Christ possessed in its use at the wedding at Cana to His glory and in doing so, gave an example of how we might use the spiritual blessings we have received to bring glory to Christ as well. Help us to use our spiritual gifts appropriately and in the process, help us rejoice in Your salvation. Grant this to Your glory. Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**