

Bible Study – Lesson 5

Celebrating an Ending for a New Beginning

A LEGACY THAT MUST CONTINUE

Matthews 28:16-20

Peter Strople wrote this quote; “Legacy is not something for people. It’s leaving something in people.” ‘The greatest **legacy** one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material wealth accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. ---- Rev. Billy Graham. These quotes lead us to look back on the legacy of the past and present-day pastors of Community Church of God Atlanta. About any leader can make a church look good for a moment – by launching flashy new programs and exciting inspirational preaching, drawing crowds to big events and increasing the church bottom line. But leaders who leave a legacy take a completely different approach. They lead with today as well as tomorrow in mind. A great pastor should be judge by how well the people and the church do after they are gone.

Our scripture lesson for tonight ‘The Great Commission’. Jesus faced the task of changing lives of people thousands of years after He was no longer with them and He succeeded. He accomplished this without ever writing any books, building any schools or founding any educational institutions. So, if Jesus chose to deposit His legacy in people, we should learn His method and practice them as best we can.

I like to share with you Jesus I.D.E.A. for leaving a legacy.

Instruction – Jesus taught most often with parables. Stories with meaning, insight and truth. He took time to explain them to His disciples when they asked.

Demonstration – Jesus did not rely on instruction only for He shared His life with them. There were three phases in their training. COME AND SEE; COME AND FOLLOW ME; COME AND BE WITH ME.

Experience – Now that Jesus had taught spiritual truths and modeled the pastoral calling. He gradually worked them into positions by giving them valuable experience. He gave them an opportunity to practice what He taught them.

Assessment – Jesus repeatedly evaluated the progress of His Disciples. Through debriefing He provided added instructions, corrections and directions. After the return of the seventy disciples that were sent out there were times of sharing of information concerning priorities and celebrations. (Luke 10:17-24)

We are honor to be disciples of two great pastors that leaves a legacy for us to carry on Jesus Commission: {verses 19-20}. “Go therefore” and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.