

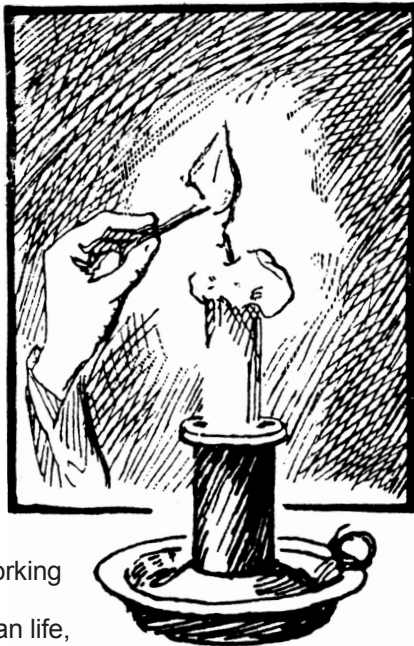
CHAPTER 16

Do You Know You Are To Be A Witness?

Foundational Review

Three sessions ago we studied the Sanctuary which illustrated the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship for us personally, removing the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin in our lives, so that we are enabled to stand before God with confidence, by Faith, in His ability to do what He has promised.

Two sessions ago we studied the Three Angels' Messages which illustrated this same Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship as we present it to others, inviting them 1) to worship God, 2) to make a choice to come out of the world's orientation to life and to enter into/abide in God's plan of salvation, and 3) to receive the wonderful consequence of making that choice – everlasting life with our best Friend.



Last session we began working through the basic, real life applications of this Christian life, to grasp the idea that Seventh-day Adventist Christians – to be the Remnant that they are called to be – must be living this Christian life in the Time of the End. Instead of imagining what this would look like, we are studying what it actually will look like in these last four sessions.

In our last session we studied about Making Disciples. In this session, we are studying about Being a Witness. **NOTE:** Be sure you read Chapter 16 before doing the study as it makes the study so much easier.

One More Time

Just to make sure you sense the urgency of the times, READ Matthew 24:4-14.

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/Faith Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Rom. 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Gal. 5:6)
- Gifts of Holy Spirit-internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
- Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)
- Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
 - Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)
 - Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)
- Unique calling: Seventh-day Adventists (Revelation 12:17)
 - To be the Remnant/painfully human (Isaiah 37:31, 32)
 - To restore the lost teachings (Isaiah 58:12; Jeremiah 31:21)
 - To give 3 Angels' Messages (Revelation 14:6-12)

This is basic Christianity.
(Ephesians 3:14-19)

QUESTION #1:

How many of these events have already taken place?

Chapter 16: Do You Know You Are To Be A Witness?

Time is short. The material in these last four studies is absolutely critical to carrying out the assignment that we have as Seventh-day Adventist Christians. "What we could have done in easier times, we will be forced to do in harder times" refers not just to the work to be done, but to the experience of getting to know Jesus. As we are studying these four last sessions, notice that as Jesus takes us through these activities, He's building a closer and closer relationship with us. Doing these activities is good for us as well as good for those to whom we are reaching out.

Review: Disciple Building

QUESTION #1:

How did Abraham respond when he was called by God?

- READ Genesis 15:6. Abraham _____ God.
- READ Genesis 12:2. When assigned his task, Abraham believed God and acc _____ his assignment, even when, as yet, he had no heirs.
- READ Hebrews 11:8, 17-19. Abraham believed God and fo _____ on his task, even believing that God could raise the dead if necessary to keep His promises.

QUESTION #2:

READ Genesis 18:19. (direct quote from last week's lesson) What three things did Abraham train his family (disciples) to do?

- Believe and fo _____ him.
- Do as he _____.
- Ca _____ when he is gone.

The Story: Part 1 How Jesus Makes Disciples

READ Mark 5:1-5. The story of the Wild Man of Gadara. *(I know that you know this story. Every Kindergarten class worthy of the name has had the kids act out this story. Let's use it to see how Jesus makes disciples and turns them into witnesses.)*



Imagine that you are with Jesus and the disciples. You have just gotten out of the boat when this wild, hairy, naked man comes rushing out of the rocks near the beach. He is growling, screaming, spitting, his dirty fingernails clawing the air, just waiting to tear into your flesh, you think.

What do you do? What is your first reaction? What would any self-respecting, practical, superstitious fisherman do

and say? "Get back in the boat! Someone push us off! We're outta here! Come on, push! Push!"

Wait a minute! You look around. Where is Jesus? He's not in the boat. Where is He? You and the other disciples look back at the beach. Jesus is still standing there. The wild man is on his knees in front of Jesus and they are having a conversation. And you want the answer to only one question.

QUESTION #1:

READ Matthew 28:20. Why is Jesus still standing there?

Believe and Follow



QUESTION #1:

After Jesus intervened for the Wild Man and saved him from his demons:

- Do you think Jesus and the Wild Man had a relationship?

- Do you think the Wild Man believed in Jesus?

- READ Mark 5:18. Is he willing to follow Jesus anywhere?

Why? READ Luke 7:42-43.

IMPORTANT:

The "why" question above is a very important question. We will talk more about this in our next session.

QUESTION #2:

Which is correct for you? (Circle a or b)

- I follow Jesus because it is the right thing to do.
- I follow Jesus because He loved me and I believe in Him.

If you answered with (a) above, it is not wrong, but it is not a full, mature answer. The Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship grows until you are not just doing the right thing, you are doing the loving thing, for Jesus and for others. The loving thing is still the right thing, but the

motive has changed. The “right thing”, when it depends on your opinion, can change in your heart to an evil thing. Remember there are those who will persecute the saints at the end of time and think that they are doing the “right thing.” But a loving, Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship is stronger than doing the right thing.

SUMMARY:

We believe and follow, because it is the loving thing to do.

COROLLARY QUESTIONS:

How important is it to know whom to follow? Circle the correct answer about Believing and Following. Be prepared to discuss and defend each answer.

- T F You don't have to be careful about whom you follow, if they are nice to you.
- T F Disciples shouldn't believe in you; you must lead them to believe in God.
- T F You don't have to be a disciple to make a disciple.

Accept the Assignment and Do as Jesus Does

QUESTION #1:

READ Mark 5:19. What was the Wild Man's assignment?

READ Mark 5:20. Did he accept his assignment?

QUESTION #2:

What is he telling the people? The 28 fundamental beliefs? The story of Christmas or the story of Creation? Is he relating the story of the Cross? What is he telling them? What does it say in the Scripture that he is telling them? (see Mark 5:20)

b Think It Through

Do you have a story to tell? What story?

SUMMARY:

We accept our assignment and do as He did, because everyone has at least one evangelistic sermon that they can preach – their own story.

Part 2

The Disciple Has Become a Witness

QUESTION #1:

To what four kinds of people will he tell his story? (See the book chapter 16.)

- a. Those who _____ him and will _____ him.
- b. Those who _____ him and will _____ him.
- c. Those who _____ him and will _____ him.
- d. Those who _____ him and will _____ him.

QUESTION #2:

To what four kinds of people will you tell your story?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

b Think It Through

Why did Jesus ask this man, and why is He asking you, to tell your story and to be a witness?

READ Luke 4:18-19. If the Wild Man (and you) do what Jesus did, what will be the purpose of his (and your) assignment to tell his (and your) story?

How do you think you will do this? What specific, practical things do you think you will be doing?

Focused on the Task and Carrying on After Jesus is Gone

QUESTION #1:

READ Mark 5:20. Does the Wild Man go and do his assignment?

Will you?

(This is very important.) Why?

QUESTION #2:

READ Matthew 28:20; John 14:16-18. Did the Wild Man have to go alone?

Are you ever alone on God's assignment?

SUMMARY:

We focus and carry on when Jesus is gone, because we are never alone.

Pressing the Point Home

1. The word "Christian" means _____ of Christ.
2. To be a Christian you must not only accept Jesus as Savior, you must also _____ Jesus as Lord. (Several words are possible. Explain the word you used)

Take Home

Thought Question

Is Jesus calling you to be a disciple and a witness?

What assignment has He given you?

How do you think it will be received?

Does that matter to you?

