

Becoming like Jesus in our work

(Based on Chapter 23 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

The only authority we have for Christian ministry is the authority Jesus gives us.

Biblical Foundation

These twelve men were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions: "Do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan towns. Instead, you are to go to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. Go and preach, 'The kingdom of heaven is near!' Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons" Matthew 10:5-10 (TEV)

The disciples of Jesus don't get to pick and chose their work as if they're grazing through some spiritual smorgasbord. Our assignments come from Jesus—his will, his desires, his agenda. Jesus knows what is important; he knows what will be fruitful; and he knows what efforts will matter in eternity.

We are free to do whatever we want, but if we want to be disciples, then we must do the work Jesus asks us to do. What does this tell us—that Jesus thinks his relationship with us is more important or that he thinks the work we do is more important? What does that say about Jesus? How does that make you feel?

How would it be possible to engage in ministry independent of Jesus? What would that look like?

The proclamation of the Gospel is an aggressive act meant to free the captives from this fallen world. It takes back the ground—and the lives—that the enemy holds captive (The light pushes the darkness away John 1:4-5).

Why would the enemy try to lull us into thinking the gospel is not part of a spiritual battle? Why would the enemy try to intimidate us when we share the gospel?

Kingdom Thinking

- My ministry emerges from the life of Christ within me, not from external pressures or circumstances.
- I find my purpose in life through my obedience to the commands of Jesus.
- My assignment is part of God's overall plan to bring others into the kingdom of heaven.