

Joining Jesus

I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12, CEB)

We've been talking in worship recently about discipleship. Specifically, we're addressing the question: "What is a Disciple?" A disciple is committed to a life-long process of being part of the body of Christ, becoming more like Christ, and joining Jesus in ministry.

The next two Sundays, we will focus on that last part - **joining Jesus in ministry**. Please notice what it doesn't say. It doesn't say that we go off and do our own thing in the name of God or that we start with our own ideas of what ministry is. Rather, we Join Jesus in what he is already doing.

So often, we run on ahead of Jesus with what we want to do or we blatantly choose to ignore some of the things that Jesus would actually want us to do. Neither is very helpful in the long run.

So, what is Jesus doing? And how do we join in? We need to look no further than the Gospel stories of Jesus' ministry for great examples. Jesus prayed. Jesus taught. Jesus showed mercy. Jesus showed up. Jesus healed. Jesus empathized. Jesus ate. Jesus fasted. Jesus confronted.

Jesus sacrificed. Jesus loved without condition. When Jesus ministered, he made a point of teaching and equipping his own disciples to do the very things he was doing. In other words, they were joining Jesus in ministry.

I believe the same is still true today, although the way ministry looks may be a little different in our day and age. When we have a sensitivity to see how God is already at work in the world through the Holy Spirit, we can also join Jesus in ministry. Let's pray that we would have "eyes to see" how Jesus is already at work and then join Jesus in ministry.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor David Rittgers