

Going Out Group @ Presbytery May 21, 2010, Lewistown
Notes from spirited reflection, sharing, (Draft 1)

* Luke 4 is a foundational text - all here is risky in what it calls for, activities and looks like...?

Who are they - the poor, blind, prisoners, oppressed, each verse

Jesus Risked his own life in Luke 4 by preaching this text!

As pastors/elders we are called to be prophetic along with pastoral and

priestly

What about our own fears in risking in our preaching, living, doing, the WHOLE good news...re preaching, Joanna Adams @ Convocation commented on how little risk seems to happen in preaching today

Do we believe this Luke 4 passage? Yes! Generally! in its Specifics well...that is where it gets risky, costly,

-Good news to the poor - this moves "from preaching to meddling"

-Christ and the Good news was(is) For the whole person, for spirit and body

-Acts 1:8 à

-this command is Risky, sending empowered disciples OUT of their comfort zones- It is NOT like the domestication of the Gospel and our call to GO OUT which we have observed in much of American church the last few decades.

Disciples Faithful to whole gospel and message

-Annie Dillard in *Teaching a Stone to Talk*: "On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return."

* How/what is to be different as and for disciples, instead of

-Consumer Christian - my needs and preferences (where preacher is paid and supposed to keep me/us happy and comfortable. It can be risky NOT to do this)

- Domestication of gospel

- Civil religion where patriotism and aspects of culture, national ideas, ways, etc become syncretized with aspects of Christianity

As Disciples we are Kingdom citizens with primary identity as disciples FIRST - called to be faithful to Christ above ALL else, first

-That is standard, plumb line, identity...

We, when called to say, be Prophet, are called to be/do so in way and ways of Christ, How Christ did it (drawing on wording of Eugene Peterson in his, The Jesus Way)

disciples called to model, incarnate Christ

to Follow

discipleship is about what all God's grace and spirit can do in and through us

to be an apprentice (a term Dallas Willard makes use of to try and convey TODAY the nature and totality of discipleship)

further discussed what is a disciple? Reread definition in Co-GeP report from George and Kathy Goodrich:

"A disciple, then, is an intentional follower of Christ and whose life is being transformed by God's Spirit to increasingly become like Christ in thought, word and deed, maturing spiritually until he/she dies and completes the discipleship journey in heaven."

KEY - a person has to want and desire to be an apprentice and disciple

(involves will and intent),

How do we develop those wants and desires for ongoing, deeper (relationship) for whole being transformed?

Important ways shared included:

a.1-1 or 1-2 discipling relationships, mentoring

b. Pray

c. see and experience other real disciples living and interacting with the budding disciple

d. deeper encounter with Christ and Christ's people

- Scripture - Disciple series has transformative results nationwide (Methodist- Abingdon (Jackie P)

- Church stressed discipleship - Church of the Resurrection, Kansas City

- Serve, go, do, live, grow in Christian faith

*How as a church can we stress discipleship throughout?

(mindset, way)

- What - ethos of the church - everything - faithful follower in the call - whole person - (Robert Shy)
 - How "market" explain, show discipleship
 - Facilitate experience, encounter with Christ, and our call to live out, do, serve as a way of life.
 - Depth - spirit
 - 1-1 or 1-3

- What touched you, how did you encounter Christ?
 - And felt safe and accepted at church - through Christ embodied, lived in church
 - * As body/community
 - * System and people - a small, struggling church
 - * Going into kitchen and asked to help - welcome
 - * Congruence in people and body as Christ incarnate
 - Dick D - Experience of God and relationship with a past or as youth and teen - teach, ongoing
 - A pastor came alongside and one could have fun, ask questions
 - personal 1-1 bringing Christ to where she was
 - Sunday school and camping

- Dave K- youth leaders, close relationship with, mentoring by new pastor and congregation (as young man). (living out the faith)

- K - as teen mom & then youth pastors and lay leaders- lived, come alongside
 - Going out and living gospel
 - Gospel in Word and deed! Always together in the congregation
 - Share stories, scriptures, 1-1