

shelved, and our building begins. God wants you to 'Go'. To 'Go' and make disciples who know how to make disciples.

This isn't my idea. I'm comfortable in the group; there's security, there's a sense of social acceptability, we've got a purpose as we huddle together. But Jesus says; 'Go'.

He scattered Babel. He scattered the early church. Let's 'GO'. Go and make multiplying disciples.

That's what any farmer does; scatters the seed. If he keeps is cosy in the silo when seeding time comes, what will happen? In Jesus' plan it's seeding time, now.

Let's pray. Come Holy Spirit and ignite us that we 'GO' as Jesus has commanded, seeking to make disciples, who will go and make disciples, till Jesus' return. Blow us out of our comfort, out of our building that we 'GO' and share the 'Good News' of the Kingdom making disciples. Amen.

How could this happen? If we each prayed asking the Holy Spirit to lead us to people whose hearts he was preparing, shared the 'Good News' with them, inviting them into Jesus' kingdom; seeing that they were baptised and then spending three years discipling them, and then sending them out to repeat the process.

Jesus had 12 disciples. If the Holy Spirit leads us each to 12 disciples; what could happen. There's 200 people here, cut that to 100 with 12 disciples each and you end up with 1200, gathering in each others'

homes, sharing life together with Jesus. After three years we scatter, maybe loose a few, so only 1000 go out and find 12. Then we have 12000 disciples living and sharing life together, loving one another bringing glory to Jesus. Another three years, so that's six, pass and we scatter again. What now? Maybe we lose a few and only 10,000 go out and find 12 disciples. Then we have 120,000 disciples sharing life together, loving one another, bringing joy to Jesus' heart and heaven's jumping for joy. Then after three years, that's nine years from the start, what happens? Even if only 100,000 go out. Then we have 1,200,000 disciples, sharing life together in each other's homes, gathering occasionally, but faithfully being there for each other, loving one another as Jesus commanded, cause we all can love twelve people at a time, especially when it is in the Spirit's power.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

23 May 2010

PENTCOST

Tower of Babel v Jesus' Kingdom



The Tower of Babel is an interesting story. I thought it was just about how God mixed up the languages of the world, showing how easy it was for him to disrupt our plans. The link then with Pentecost, I've always seen as that now God is removing that confusion, everyone on the day of Pentecost could understand the 'Good News' of the Kingdom in their own language. Again how easily God overcomes what is such a barrier.

But only this week I was shown another aspect about the Tower of Babel and how it relates to the early church that exploded forth on the day of Pentecost.

Let's look again at the Tower of Babel. What's the plan; "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower (steeple) that reaches to the heavens (a skyscraper), so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over

the face of the whole earth."

What was their first impulse? To come together. There's security, comfort, strength in numbers. It looks like they were thinking that together they could achieve far more than if they were divided. Their impulse was to come together. They didn't want to be scattered, rather they were going to find their security, their comfort, their purpose by coming together. It seems the saying; 'Bigger is better' has been around for a long time!

I didn't think much of this coming together till it was compared with Jesus' command. Jesus said; "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore..." (Matt. 28:18) Do what? Come together and build a city for yourself where you'll feel comfortable, have your needs meet, and find your purpose in maintaining the

city. What did Jesus then say? 'GO'.

Jesus says to us; 'GO'. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them... and teaching them..." (Matt. 28:19,20)

Being comfortable and secure in a city of my own design and making isn't what Jesus has called me to do, but rather to 'GO'. The word 'GO' has a feel of action about it, a restless feeling, you can't sit still, we need to be on the move. 'GO'.

They were building a city for themselves. A place of their own making where they could feel comfortable, feel safe, and feel as though they had succeeded. They're building a tower that reaches the heavens. Wow, talk about impressive.

And how were they going to achieve this lofty goal? Technology. They were going to use the latest and

greatest technology available; "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly.' They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar." (Gen. 11:3)

They were using the best available practices. This city, this tower was going to tell the world how brilliant these people were. Just look at our bricks, the best money can buy. And held together firmly with tar. What strength, what security, what a name they were going to make for themselves.

Did you notice they weren't going to use stones? Who makes stones? How many stones are all exactly the same? I'd say it would be easier to manage bricks to fit a plan than stones. God makes stones. God makes stones according to his design.

And that reminds me that God uses a stone to build his church on; "Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God'... Jesus replied... I tell you that on this rock I will build my church..." (Matt. 16:15-18)

Here's another difference. God created stone, and now humanity makes bricks. What an interesting contrast; One is doing it God's way, using God's resources to achieve God's outcome, giving him a stellar reputation. The other is doing things our way, using our resources, to achieve our outcome, giving ourselves a big-head.

How does Jesus build his church?

Another difference is that bricks are uniform and managed. Stones are unique, individually fashioned by God.

What a contrast; when humanity builds, they pump out uniform bricks that are stuck together in one place. Jesus comes to build his church and what do we find; 'living stones'. We find uniquely gifted individuals held together, not by force, that's tar, but held together by love. The love of Jesus for each of them, and their love for him. We find stones not

fixed and immovable, but Jesus' church is dynamic, it's alive, and it brings life.

Jesus' church isn't built by the latest and greatest in technology, but Jesus' church is built on the outpouring of his blood. A life giving blood. And at Pentecost we're reminded that Jesus' church is built as he breathes life into his church through the person of the Holy Spirit.

No matter how grand we make something it is still a dead inanimate thing. We don't have the power to do anything different. We don't have the power to transform dead things into living, vibrant people.

The Tower of Babel would have been grand, but from the day it was finished it would have been decaying. The city and the tower don't have life. This building plan, and these resources miss the mark.

What a stark contrast to Jesus who builds with living stone. Jesus who breathes the life giving Spirit into his church so that it can now reproduce. This isn't a dead inanimate

thing, but full of life, life lived in the loving presence of God. This is Jesus' design, and he has the power to fulfil his dream. Jesus' design revolves around loving, vibrant relationships created by God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, lived out through the person of the Holy Spirit.

The best technology has to offer isn't even in the same ball park as what Jesus comes to create. And I can't make what Jesus' creates using the latest and greatest technology. Only Jesus has the power to create life, to create living stones. Living stones that bring glory to their creator and not themselves.

So at Pentecost Jesus breathed out the Holy Spirit and the church came to life. Notice they had to wait till they received the Holy Spirit. If they had just shot of and done their own thing using the latest and greatest technology what would they have made? I don't know, but it wouldn't have been Jesus' creation. So they waited.

I'm sure the ten days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost seemed a life time. I could just image Peter wanting to get out there and just do it. But they waited, because that was Jesus' plan. They waited, trusting that Jesus knows best. They waited believing that Jesus would act as he promised. I'm sure they couldn't have told you at that point what was

Disciples growing Disciples till he returns

going to happen, but they waited as Jesus directed. So the Tower of Babel reminds me that my goal isn't to come together for security, seeking purpose and a big reputation, but we are to go. That's Jesus' plan, to go and make disciples, that they might go and make disciples, that they might go and make disciples, till Jesus returns and gathers us in.

I'm to go, not trusting the latest and greatest technology to achieve Jesus' goals, but to trust Jesus, that he will continue

to breathe out the Holy Spirit, so that as we go he will transform lives, he will transform people. So that they are no longer dead to him, but alive. Nothing but Jesus' power and authority can create that change. People who are alive, in a living, vibrant, loving relationship with Jesus. Living daily as his disciples, trusting him with how they build their lives, as they go in his name tell the Good News of the Kingdom to all people.

It's interesting to note that the earl church gathered for a while. Jesus put them through an intensive course and then he scattered them. The tendency is to stay together; it's comfortable together, we feel safer together, we find a sense of purpose together. But Jesus put a bomb under the first church and scattered them to the four corners of the world. The bomb was persecution, and it got those living stones going in all directions.

God wants you to 'Go'. When we aim at to Come the focus always ends on Me. Then Jesus' plan gets