



Spirit of Grace

The Ministry of Dennis & Benedicta Pollock

Herald

June, 2018

**Spirit of Grace Ministries
P.O. Box 2068
McKinney, TX 75070
(530) 712-4253**

Email: grace@spiritofgrace.org
Website: www.spiritofgrace.org

Called to Make Students

Sometimes we evangelicals put such a premium on an instantaneous conversion that we forget or neglect the fact that if one's conversion is true and genuine, it must result in that individual becoming a disciple of Jesus. A disciple is simply a learner, or to put it in another way, a student. Jesus tells us to go and make students (disciples) everywhere. Any conversion that does not result in one becoming a student of Jesus Christ is no conversion at all. We are called not to go and make "converts" or go and make holy men and women; we are told to go and make disciples – students of Jesus.

Students must have a curriculum. They must have subjects to study. Our primary subject is Jesus! He tells us: "...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." In *Jesus University* our number one objective is to learn of Jesus: His commands, His ways, His nature, who He is, what He says, what He did while on earth, His miracles and

healings, His rebukes, His words of encouragement, His death for our sins and resurrection, His teachings about the Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. We must allow our minds and hearts to become thoroughly immersed in Jesus Christ.

Our Teacher is Jesus. He told His disciples, "**And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ**" (Matthew 23:10). So we find that Jesus is both our subject and He is our Teacher. Sounds like it's all about Jesus! When He says, "**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me**" this was not just poetic language. This is at the heart of what it means to follow Jesus. We become His students, and He becomes our Teacher and our curriculum.



As we present Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him, this must be our mentality. We are not aiming merely to get people to say a quick prayer or have a quick baptism. Salvation happens in an instant. But the moment of salvation is the first step in a lengthy process, in fact it is so lengthy that it goes on all our lives. We are out to transform dropouts into

students of Jesus Christ. We are sort of like college recruiters, eagerly attempting to convince men and women that they really, really need to enroll in the school which we represent – *Jesus University*.

The Bible tells us that Jesus chose those original twelve men "**that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach**" (Mark 3:14). Those first disciples made their mistakes, we must give them credit. They did what few men were willing to do. They put aside all their other interests and paid the price to follow Jesus wherever He went. They had no clue where all this would lead or how it would affect them the rest of their days. But they followed, they did what was asked of them. They spent time with Jesus.

Called to Make Students

Eventually He initiated the second part of their education – student teaching. He sent them out to preach. They were not trained speakers. They had no earthly diploma. Most were simple fishermen and peasants from the despised area of Galilee, men who spoke with such a “hillbilly” accent that it was easy to instantly recognize the area of their upbringing.

But although uneducated in earthly schools these men were highly educated in the one school that really mattered, the school whose Teacher and Curriculum is Jesus. Later, when Peter and John were preaching the gospel, healing the sick, and turning Jerusalem on its ear, the Bible tells us:

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

We cannot walk with Jesus the way those first disciples did. He is no longer present on earth in the flesh. But we *can* walk with Him, and we *must* walk with Him. We do this today by reading the gospels. I love the thought that when I read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, I have just walked with Jesus from birth to death to resurrection to ascension. Yes, I know that I am getting His life in an abbreviated form. But when I read the gospels I am reading the precise teachings, the miracles, the commands, the promises, and the comforts which the Holy Spirit has deemed necessary for men and women to know. And in those four gospels we have the complete package; we have all of Jesus that we need to know. The Holy Spirit, who inspired the thoughts, words, and passages, included precisely what needed to be told.

Next Month: MISSION KENYA



Benedicta will be leaving for Kenya in a few days, the Lord willing, to head up the administrative preparation for the meetings we will be doing there in July. Please pray for her safety, and for her effectiveness in this role. Pray that the Lord would pour out His Spirit richly upon us in this mission, and build His church in Kenya.

We have not been able to go to Kenya for some time, due to election violence, but things have cooled off and we look forward to ministering there once again. Your prayers and your financial support are vital to the success of this mission. Thanks for partnering with us in fulfilling the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus!

