

Through all of history, all the heresies, all the false movements, all the false teaching and recently the charismatic movement, word-faith, and others, Christ has continued to do what He has promised, which is to build His church, Matt. 16:18.

The roles of shepherds and leaders should be well known by the church so that they can compare Scripture to what elders preach and teach and compare to how they live.

7 Principles of Effective Ministry:

1. **Purposefulness:** V5-6, Jesus was instructing them. This is Jesus giving commands and orders. He tells them where not to go: the cities of the Samaritans and the way of the Gentiles. The first priority of Jesus' ministry is the House of Israel (V6), see also Isaiah 53:6 (sins of Israel to fall on Jesus) Acts 13:46 (Jews first then to Gentiles), Rom. 1:16, 2:9-10 (to the Jew first). Yahweh promises to seek and care for His sheep and call them back, Ez. 34:11-16.
 - Jesus tells them to "go" and proclaim the "kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - **This gospel:** Col. 1:28, Proclaiming Christ- God has sent His Son to save a sinful and wicked people who have sinned against God. Warning every man to repent because the Lord is our judge and salvation comes only through Christ. Presenting every man mature in Christ, discipling them to follow the commands and teachings Christ and His apostles have proclaimed to us.
2. **Proclamation:** V7, they proclaim the kingdom of heaven (God) is at hand. Jesus (The King) was on earth and proclaiming the same message (Matt. 4:23) along with John the Baptist (Matt. 3:2) and the disciples. The message: to repent and believe in the Gospel, Mark 1:15.
 - Matthew 18:3, is a message to repent and be converted and become like children. Not innocent, but fully dependent and humble before the Lord. To become small and obedient. The believer is born again and made a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).
3. **Power:** V8, they are to do mighty deeds as they go, but the Greek language excludes the article "the" so it would mean as they are preaching, which is their primary mission, they would heal those who were sick, lame, etc. Mk. 6:13, says they were healing a great many people during this ministry.
 - This was not to be done for money, but freely giving as they had freely received.
 - **This gospel:** the power of God was the message of Christ the King who converts and saves the soul. 1 Cor. 1:18, the word of the cross to the saved is the power of God.
 - **This gospel:** 1 Thess. 1:5, came not in word only, but in power, and in the Holy Spirit and with full assurance.
 - **This gospel:** 2 Cor. 4:2, not in words of craftiness, but a pure gospel that Jesus is Lord.
4. **Provision:** V9-10, Jesus tells them to take nothing extra so they would see that God provides for His workers. God providentially provides for His sheep and shepherds. 1 Cor. 9:14, those that proclaim the gospel have a right to get their living from it also.
 - Jesus sends them out to prepare them for a time in the future where they would be 1000s of miles from Jerusalem and would walk by faith and know God would provide for them.
5. **Patronage:** V10, "the worker is worthy of his support." This provision is given not as to an employee, but a sponsorship. 2 Thess. 3:7-9, Paul didn't receive support from the new church in Thessalonica. Paul at times commanded the church to support the work of teaching pastors (1 Tim. 5:17) and also lived by faith by God's provision.

6. **Pearls:** V11-13, "who is worthy in it," this means deserving, or those who see the importance of the message of Jesus Christ. Those who were willing to hear the message would also support the work. V12, the disciples would give a blessing on the house. V13, peace would also be given to it of Jesus and those who received the message.
 - **Lessons the Disciples Learned:** 1) The one who doesn't want to support the gospel doesn't want Christ. 2 Cor. 9:1-15, God provides seed for the sower. Matt. 6:20-21, a man's heart is revealed by what he treasures in life. 2) Never cooperate in so called "ministry" with those who are not eager for the gospel itself. Matt. 7:6, do not give what is holy to dogs and do not throw your pearls before swine.
7. **Pigs:** Matt. 7:6, "pearls before swine," V13-14, the disciples were to shake the dust off their feet of the town who didn't receive their words nor heed them.
 - V15, the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah rejected the message of the angels who came to warn them, in the same way, those that reject the message brought by the disciples would fair far worse in the day of judgement than those cities (eternal destruction).
 - **In my life:** continue sharing Christ with loved ones and friends until there are no more opportunities, or they become hostile to you, and spend effort and time discipling those who desire to be taught.
 - **In the local church:** if those outside become hostile, a time comes to stop sharing the gospel and commit your cares and burden for them to the Lord in prayer.

Further Discussion and Application

In Matthew 10:16-23, Jesus gives a clear warning that those who follow Christ will be persecuted, hated by the world, hated by family, and will have to choose God over family and man. Jesus' ministry would bring division between believers and non-believers even within families. What is the message that we can share with them? How can we bear fruit that demonstrates our changed life? How can we show them Christ?

This passage of Scripture provides a blessing and a curse for those who partake in the message. The believer wants to contribute to the work and an unbeliever feels no burden to contribute to it. In what areas of our lives should we be regularly taking inventory to test our motives and beliefs towards money, loyalties, and the purpose of things we allow in our lives? Examine the thoughts and attitudes you have towards ministry, service, giving, loving, and fellowship with the body. Do you see any areas of slippage? Is the cause a health issue, change in routine, busy-ness, or other priorities? What can you do to restart and rekindle those areas of church life and obedience to Christ?

What are you saying "yes" to and what are you saying "no" to? Make some lists and evaluate.