

Led by the Spirit

Sunday, Jun 23, 2019

Announce

Two outreach opportunities

Food pantry outreach

- Continue to bring canned goods/non-perishables
- Great write up in the paper

School supplies outreach

- Looking to provide school supplies for students at Simon Kenton
- Like to target 50 kids
- List on the info table
- Thru July

Review

Three goals for 2019

Started the year with a focus on three things based on a prayer meeting recorded in Acts 13:1-3

Prayer and Worship

- Coming together for prayer and worship
- Currently doing this on Sunday mornings during the *Sunday school* hour
- Seeking more of the Lord

Ministry by the Spirit

- Seeking more of the power and presence of God as we grow in ministry
- Currently here - lots of sermons re: Spirit

Empowered evangelism

- From that place - we fulfill the great commission
- Work to be done - and we need the Spirit

The promised Holy Spirit

- Sunday May 26

- JTB announced Jesus would be the one who would give the Spirit
- Jesus repeatedly promises to send the Spirit
- Jesus lived a Spirit filled life (and is the example of)
- Jesus completed the Father's mission - and provided His Spirit so we can too!

A double portion

- June the 2nd
- Looked at Elisha's request for a double portion
- Came from a place in ministry - and recognition he needed more
- God provided

More of the Spirit

- Pentecost Sunday
- Call for more in our lives
- **Note:** Covering these in greater detail on Wednesday evenings

Endure to the end

- Make it to the end
- **Sister Dean** finished her race Tuesday morning - she endured to the end
- Will need the power of the Spirit to finish the race

Growing in love

- Fruit of the Spirit is love
- Looking at the Corinthian church - and their lack of love
- I can only love more by the Spirit

Effective evangelism

- The boldness to witness
- The power for an effective witness
- **Note:** Will look in greater detail Wednesday

Children of God

- Father's day
- Being born again by the Spirit
- Following the Spirit's leading
- A future hope because of the Spirit

Introduction

- This morning, I want to continue to sharing on the topic of the Holy Spirit
- I want to examine the phrase *led by the Spirit*. Consider the following passages:
- One of the verses we looked at last week was **Rom 8:14-15 (ESV)** (14) *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (15) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*
- We talked about the Spirit making us sons (and how little I look like one)
- But what does the phrase *led by the Spirit* mean/look like/
- Consider also **Gal 5:16-18 (ESV)** (16) *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (17) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*
- There's lots here to unpack

What does it mean?

Let's ask the most basic question first: **What does being led by the Spirit mean?**

Kids game - follow the leader

- As an example, do you remember playing follow the leader as a kid, or playing it with your kids?
- One would be the *leader* and the others would follow?
- In it's most basic: being led by the Spirit is follow the leader - with the Holy Spirit as our leader

Jesus is our example

- We said at the start of this series that Jesus is our example of one who lived a Spirit filled life
- By examining His walk - we can discover what it means to be led by the Spirit
- That's what I'd like to do this morning

Where does He lead?

- This morning I want to look at three "directions" the Spirit leads
- Not exhaustive
- Can be used to help determine if I'm being led by the Spirit
- **Note:** Each is either/or

Away from my old nature (and to the cross)

The example of Jesus

- Jesus was *led by the Spirit* into the wilderness to be tempted
- Not that he had a sin nature, but His nature was tempted in every way as are we - yet remains without sin
- At the end of his ministry - he was led by the Spirit to the cross
- Peter rebuked him, the disciples were amazed - and ultimately all forsook him
- The Spirit led him to Calvary
- **Note:** See his prayer "not my will"

In our lives

- The Spirit desires exactly the opposite of the flesh
- See one the context from Galatians 5
- I cannot be led by the Spirit, and do what I want - they are diametrically opposed
- We are to crucify the flesh - counting ourselves dead with Christ on the cross
- **Gal 2:20 (ESV) (20)** *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Away from my self focus (and to the needs of others)

The example of Jesus

- Throughout the Gospels - compassion for the needs of others drives Jesus to action
- Most significant of these to me is when he hears his cousin JTB has been martyred.
- Gets away to be alone with the disciples to heal
- Crowd follows
- He teaches them and feeds them!

In our lives

- The Spirit wants us to see the place where we live through the eyes of Jesus
- What does He think about the opioid crisis? How does he feel when a kid watches their parent OD?
- If we are led by the Spirit - we will have our eyes turned from "me and mine" to a world that needs someone to show them the love of Christ
- Two opportunities right now: food pantry, school supplies
- If I never feel anything for anyone (or only feel for my immediate family/circle) then I'm probably not being led by the Spirit

Away from the "safety" of religion (and to the "wilds" of evangelism)

The example of Jesus

- Confronted the religious and self righteous
- But also focused on carrying the Gospel to the *lost sheep* of Israel
- He didn't get comfortable and build a church and rest
- He didn't always focus on the saved
- See the parable of the 100 sheep (or any of the parables in Luke 15)

In our lives

- We are called to fellowship and community
- We need that all the more in the days before Christ returns
- But that cannot be our exclusive focus
- We are called to be salt and light - and must be in contact with the world
- Time for *circle the wagons* is done
- We have to be bold
- We cannot be content
- We must finish the business of the Father

How does He lead?

- Unlike the kid's game *Follow the Leader* there's not a physical tangible person to follow.
- Even the disciples (i.e. followers) had Jesus to lead them
- But He gave His Spirit for us to follow

I have to be born again

- We have to be born by the Spirit before we can be led by him
- The Spirit leads us to Jesus as sinners - but leads us to follow Jesus having been born again
- See **1 Cor 2:14 (ESV)** (14) *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

In prayer

- See how often Jesus withdrew to pray
- How much time are we praying?
- How much time do we spend seeking the face of God and trying to determine his will for our lives
- If you feel like you're not being led by the Spirit - maybe you're not praying

In His Word

- Likewise through the Word!

- How can we know God's will apart from His Word?
- See **Rom 12:1-2 (ESV)** (1) *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Through the body

- The Spirit of God is in the people of God
- We need one another!
- See Acts 13 - how the Spirit spoke through someone to affirm the calling of God for Paul and Barnabas **Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)** (1) *Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

Will I follow?

- So this is the question
- God gives us free will
- Honors our free will
- Paid a high price to rescue us from the choices we've made with our free will
- But leaves this in our hands!
- We are either (as Christians) being led by the Spirit or led by the flesh - there are only two choices
- Will you follow the Spirit?
- *I have decided, to follow Jesus*
- **Rom 8:5-9 (ESV)** (5) *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (7) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. (8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*
- Choose today whom you will follow!