

Sunday Sermons – CSI Church, Toronto
Sunday, September 7, 2014

Equipping the People of God

Deuteronomy 6:1-17

Psalms 119: 89-104

Ephesians 4:7-16

Matthew 7:24-29

Matthew 7: 24, 25

Matthew 5, 6 & 7 – The Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount is the basis of *didache* teaching of the early church. The basic rules of the early church is built upon the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Today's topic deals with equipping the people of God.

Equipping: conditioning, fortifying, making fit, cleansing, and suitable for effective functioning.

Christian faith: growing into Christ- likeness.

The people of God: the church – not any spiritual denomination, but all people from every denomination who could really search for God and live for God. Catholic Church mentioned in the Nicene Creed is the Universal Church.

The church needs to be equipped time after time.

1. **Equipping the people of God for daily life:** We need to have a fruitful and meaningful life.
 - a. How have I helped somebody?
 - b. What good have I done today?
 - c. How have I been a blessing to someone?
 - d. Have I been carefully observing everyday habits?Deed – habit – character
2. **Equipping the people of God for worshipping God:** God is worthy of all praises and adoration.
 - a. How am I getting prepared to worship?
 - b. What is my participation in worship?
 - c. How much have I offered myself in worship?
3. **Equipping the people of God for Mission:** Mission is giving Christ to the Christ-less. A person with Christ is a missionary. A person without Christ is a mission field.
 - a. How am I participating in any mission?
 - b. How should I participate in mission?
 - c. What is my commitment towards mission of the church?
4. **Equipping the people of God to face the challenges of worldly teachings from time to time:** The world changes a lot with advancement in science and technology. Values face challenges. Negatives become positives.
 - a. How do we look at this change with our belief?
 - b. Are we following the current?
 - c. Do we have the grip?

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5. **Equipping the people of God for eternal life:** Eternal life is a very true state of life, a very solid reality.
- a. Do I believe in eternal life?
 - b. Am I ready to face death at any time?

We need to be equipped in these five aspects. The question is HOW? The answer is very simple – today’s Bible portion reveals it to us. Basically, any Christian is to be equipped with the Word of God. The third part of the Divine Service is “*The Ministry of the Word of God*”: two lessons from the Old Testament, two lessons from New Testament, and the Sermon. We need to read and meditate on the Word of God daily.

1. Obey the Word of God:

This is implicit obedience, without questioning or reasoning. Deuteronomy 6: 3

2. Love God by all means:

If you love me, keep my commandments. John 14: 15; Deuteronomy 6: 4, 5

3. Discuss the Word of God at all times:

Give them to your generations

When you’re at home

When you’re walking

When you’re on the bed

When you rise up

} in your routines

Deuteronomy 6: 7; Psalms 119: 97, 98, 99

4. Do not forget the Lord who has brought you thus far:

Deuteronomy 6: 11, 12; Psalms 119: 93

5. Fear the Lord and serve Him:

Deuteronomy 6: 13

6. Do not trust in anything else other than the Word of God:

Deuteronomy 6: 14; Psalms 119: 100- 104

In this age of confusion and hatred, let’s be thoroughly equipped as people of God to witness our Heavenly Father. Every day, in every circumstance, let’s live equipped so that those who are associated with us may see the light of salvation. They also may be saved, and glorify God. Let’s build our lives on Christ, the rock.
