

Jesus Gave Opportunity

This is a very very simple Bible study!

I don't even have to do it for you!

Here it is...

Perhaps some times, we Christians have spent too much time studying in great detail what Jesus said--what He taught--and perhaps we have missed some of the bigger, and in fact more obvious aspects of Jesus' ministry

One of those aspects is this simple concept..

Jesus gave opportunity to His followers to do what He did.

Jesus gave ongoing, constant, changing opportunity for His followers to work with Him and minister to others.

Think about it.

You have read the Gospels and you know this is true.

I don't even have to look for quotes from the Bible in this case--because I know that you know that this is true.

Jesus worked WITH others (not "over them--not "in authority over" them!!) He said so Himself..

25 But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:25-28)

25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26 But ye *shall* not *be* so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

27 For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

(Luke 22:25-29)

And in the process of working with others He gave all of them many many opportunities to do what He did.

You know that He prayed they would do all that He did and greater...

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; **and greater works** than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. (John 14:12)

And they did exactly this, while they learned.

Yes Jesus taught.

But as He taught He gave opportunity to work.

He gave opportunity to function in the gospel.

Now the question is this..

Where has this gone in Christian function?

Where has this example that Jesus gave, gone?

Where is the opportunity to witness and work together and share the gospel with the world gone--in the common function of "church"?

We teach and teach and teach--great.

But where has the function gone?

Where has the opportunity gone?

Look forward into the Bible.

Again, I don't even have to look for examples, I know that you know this is true, because I know you have read the Bible.

The church in the Bible also had ongoing, daily opportunity to witness together.

Okay I'll give you Bible on that..

42 ¶ And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2: 42-47)

The daily meetings of Christians.

Not a ceremony.

Not a showplace for teaching (although teaching may have gone on)

Rather the daily meeting of Christians an opportunity to get together and pray and ask God what He wanted done, and being in a small group, ready to carry out His commands and meet His needs (and so the needs of the world around them). Notice they followed the "apostles doctrine"--which was the concept of working together in small groups and sharing the Gospel--the "stuff" Jesus had demonstrated.

Breaking bread together.

A daily ongoing opportunity for all believers to minister.

A daily opportunity to work together in the Gospel.

What a concept!!

Makes perfect sense!

Where has it gone?

Where has the opportunity gone?

Could we put it back into the church?