

We All Have A Part To Play Matthew 4:17-25

It's a good day today! 3 baptisms on one Sunday (the 2nd time this month)! It's been a good week! **140 kids at VBS with 48 of those being teenagers!** **We had 50 volunteers from this church that made it all happen!** *Thank you!*

This week reminded me of the Scripture from **1 Corinthians 12:14-22, 27!** **What an amazing picture of the Church being who God calls us to be!**

When Jesus spoke the words in Matthew 19:14, **"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven"** I wonder if today, and this past week, was what He had in mind?

What an amazing thing it is to see, and participate in, the body of Christ working together to fulfill its purpose in this world!

So what now? VBS may be over, but **the work of the Church continues!** The needs & roles may change, but growing the Kingdom is still our purpose!

We've been singing about God's Kingdom! We've declared what we believe about it, and we've been living it out this past week, but there is still work to be done, still needs to be met, still a harvest that is plentiful!

In **Matthew 16:18**, Jesus said, **"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"**, but even Jesus didn't do this work alone!

Matthew 4:17-25 – Jesus starts off His earthly ministry with a message and **an invitation** to join Him in this work!

First, we get introduced to Jesus' main message: **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

To "repent" is to turn! We talk a lot about what we are to turn from – self & sin! But to turn "from" is only half of what is meant by "repent". **We're also to turn "to" something new in its place – the work of the kingdom of God.**

And this act of "repentance" is not intended to be a one-time thing! It is the act of continually turning away from sin & self, & turning to the things of God & what He is accomplishing in this world! Do our lives reflect this?

If you asked any of the VBS volunteers, they would probably say there were plenty of other things they could have spent their time & energy doing this

week, but they chose to be a part of God's work - **building His Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven, by helping children have a clear path to Jesus!**

Every volunteer served a different purpose this week at VBS, but every one was an indispensable part of this work being done for God's Kingdom!

Without every volunteer, there would have been things missing, work left undone, unnecessary burden placed upon others, & **who knows what other missed opportunities there would've been to see the Lord's Prayer realized!**

As we enter into my sabbatical my hope is that the same will be true in the months ahead as it was this past week. **No one person can accomplish the mission of the Church alone, we all have a part to play, & the time is now!**

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray saying, **"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"** it was more than just words! It was a call to action! **Jesus was going to build His Church, but not alone!**

Jesus' first course of action was to choose some co-laborers to join Him in the work of building God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven!

If Jesus needed the help, so will we! The work of the Church is not a one-man job! Jesus taught & modeled this for us by inviting others into it!

Just as in VBS, the work of the Church is extensive! We need all hands on deck to accomplish it! Every one of us has a part to play to meet the needs that the Church is called to meet. We need some Peter's/Andrew's/ James'/ John's, & the women that surrounded & supported the work of Jesus as well

In the bulletin you will see a list of opportunities to serve, opportunities available because we as a church have needs that are not being met!

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are often too few! We need laborers in God's vineyard – His Kingdom! Will you rise up and play the part you are meant to play – the part that is indispensable to the work of the Church?

The pathway of seeing the Lord's Prayer realized is through repentance! Jesus said, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

We've done it for VBS – we've turned from our own desires, and turned to the desires of God & the advancement of His Kingdom here on earth! **Will it stop there, or will this past week be a springboard for us as a church?**

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