

NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER - 2023

Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m.

*There will be no bible study
on October 18.*

SPEAKERS

October 1: Ken Storm, *Holy
Communion*

October 8: Mark
Sunnarborg

October 15: Ken Storm

October 22: Charles
Korhonen

October 29th - Herb Jarvi

CONTACT

Website:
www.tapiolachurch.org

Mailing: P.O. Box 531,
Houghton, MI 49931

Location:
17602 N. Lake Ave.,
Tapiola, MI 49916
(906) 334-2766

Contact: Ken Storm, Pastor
(906) 482-3234

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

True Discipleship

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” - Matthew 7:21

God takes no pleasure in the death of a sinner; He invites all people to repent and believe the gospel of forgiveness of sins for eternal life in heaven. Hence, there should be no reason for anyone to be lost; our subject text shows otherwise to which Jesus adds, *“many are called, but few are chosen”* (Matt 22:14). Thus, many will deceive themselves into believing that they are saved when the opposite is true. The “chosen” are those who answer God’s invitation to repent of their sins according to His commands and not according to their best aims. As we will see in this article, whether one is chosen or not depends on the answer given to the invitation that they receive from God.

Luke 9:57–62 speaks of three individuals who happen to encounter Jesus. These were not just random incidences, however, for Jesus always knows exactly where He is going, what He needs to accomplish and who He is going to meet along the way of life. The same thing happens today where the Word of God opens up to seemingly random people at random times and in random places, but there is an eternal purpose to what happens to people throughout life. In this short portion of scripture it is clear that Jesus was inviting three men to follow Him; not to do works to please Him but to believe on Him and His gospel of repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name (Luke 24:47).

In verses 57-58, Jesus passed by a certain person who declared to Him, *“I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest”*. Clearly, that man, among the many that probably surrounded Jesus that day, stood out from the crowd as he proclaimed love for the Lord. Instead of putting his arms around the man and welcoming him as we might expect, Jesus replied somewhat cryptically, *“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head”*, meaning that merely mimicking me will do you no good as I have nothing of this world to offer you. Jesus recognized this man for the self-righteous person he was; he wanted to be praised for His love of God. Rather than praise that man for his outward proclamation, Jesus told him that God wants his heart, He wants to forgive his sins, and He will give him faith to believe the word of reconciliation preached to him if he will only repent and confess his sins to a servant of God.

In verses 59-60 Jesus asked a second person to *“Follow me”*. Unlike the first person, who volunteered to serve Christ in his self-righteous zeal, this person was willing but only after he had time *“to go and bury my father.”* Jesus responded by saying, *“Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.”* Jesus was contrasting physical death with eternal death where it is more important to be concerned with the living as opposed to the dead. Once a person has passed from this life there is nothing that can be done to change the outcome. However, for those who are spiritually dead but physically alive, there is hope for salvation if the Word of God could be preached to them, which is what Jesus was asking this man to do. Further, Jesus was making a point; when I call, I expect you to answer on my time and not yours.

Finally, in verses 61-62, a third person approached Jesus saying, *“I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at my house”*. This person, like the previous two had a desire to follow Christ but he wanted time to first tend to his already ongoing work in his church. To this person Jesus replied, *“No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”*. Jesus was asking him to preach the word and not to draw on his past experience, which he found it difficult not to do.

Our subject text shows us that even serving God in this life is not sufficient on its own merit to garner His favor, for on the last day of time we may hear Him say, *“I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”* (Matt 7:23). Imagine, working all your life in the service of the Lord, believing that you are saved only to be rejected. There is only one thing that God requires of us and He made that abundantly clear by sending His Son to earth to be sacrificed for our sins because *“your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”* (Isaiah 59:2). God hears one plea from any person burdened with sin, no matter who he is or where he is: *“what must I do to be saved?”* To such a plea, God will grant grace to confess the sin that bothers him and to believe the gospel message of forgiveness proclaimed to him. This act of repentance is solely the work of God done in any person who answers His invitation to be saved. Those who find it difficult to answer this invitation may find the door of heaven shut (Matt 25:10).

God's Peace,

Charles Korhonen