

Intro: In Luke 2:8-20 we find one of the most iconic parts of the Christmas story. Apart from the Nativity scene itself it is probably one of the best known and most repeated parts of that first Christmas. Read Lk 2:8-20

This morning as we continue our Christmas series "Fit For A King" I want to talk with you about "Followers Fit For A King! When God chose to announce the birth of His Son, Jesus, He didn't go to the Rome, and let the Emperor know, He didn't choose to send someone to Herod...or to the Priests...or to religious leaders of the day. God chose the ordinary everyday people...shepherds, to be the FIRST to hear of His birth!

God is STILL doing that today! Corinthians tells us that it is not the wise, or the noble, the rich or the famous that God does His best work through. It is the ordinary...the everyday...the regular people of the world that He empowers to announce His Son and change our world. Just like the first 12 disciples...God began with ordinary.

What does it mean to be "A Follower Fit For The King?" Look with me at the story of the shepherds and see.

1. 5 Characteristics Of Followers Fit For A King

As you look at the story of that first Christmas there are 5 things I want you to notice about the shepherds which will encourage you to be the same kind of faithful follower of Jesus they were. **FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS**

- **They Don't Underestimate what they can be in God's hands (Who am I?)** Just a shepherd/stay at home mom *If God trusts you...then YOU can trust YOU! IF God says you can...who are YOU to doubt Him!?*
- **They are available where They are!**
*God, I don't know what I can do here...but if you show me...I will be available
This week...Be aware of what God wants to do through you...right where you are! (As Jesus was going Jericho)*
- **They are not afraid of God's work!** (That was the first message the angels gave the shepherds) God's got this!
*All too often we talk ourselves out of doing what God wants us to do...because we are afraid!
We are afraid we won't have right words, won't come out right, won't be received well: **DON'T BE AFRAID!***
- **They Take the NEXT RIGHT STEP...One at a time...** *We often want to know the end from the beginning,
God SELDOM works that way! He gives us light and strength, and wisdom for ONE step...NOT THE JOURNEY!
It is only as we take the NEXT RIGHT STEP that the one after that becomes clear! (My first mission CHINA)
Lets Go Bethlehem Let's Find the Christ Child Lets Tell What we have seen!*
- **They Spread What THEY Know About Jesus**
*There is NOTHING as powerful as what God has done in your life, and the personal testimony of His Power
Listen, that has been the keystone of God's work for the last 2000 years. One person telling another person
about the goodness of God in their life. **YOU SPREAD WHAT YOU KNOW...leave the rest to God!***

Illus: 1 Cor 1:26-28 Remember what you were when you were called!

2. 5 Steps To Becoming A Follower Fit For A King This Week. 1 Cor 3:5-9

So, what does that mean to us this week? HOW do we live that out? You say, OK Pastor, that's great, I WANT to be a Follower Fit For A King...What does that look like PRACTICALLY? I just don't have it in me to talk to a stranger in a grocery store line. Some people can do that, but not me! What can I do? Turn with me to 1Cor 1:5-9

- **Offer yourself as a servant to God to lead others to Him**
*Vs 5: Servants through whom you came to believe
This is a simple prayer. God...I know I'm not Paul...and I'm not gifted like Apollos: I AM available!
Lord, I am YOUR servant. Here I am...every day this week. Standing before YOU, saying USE ME
And Lord, even BEFORE you tell me what it is you want me to do...I commit in advance...I'll do it!
Servant: Lit = *One who runs errands for another, an attendant, a waiter at a table!*
Like Isaiah said: Here I am...send me...God WHATEVER YOU WANT...I'm your girl/guy/servant*
- **Ask God to show you your role and task.**
*Vs 6: As the Lord has assigned to each his task
You see, Paul is telling us that each of us has been given a task and a role.
We are responsible for OUR role...OUR task...not someone else's!
When YOU get to heaven, God isn't going to say: Why weren't you like Pastor Dennis
He is going to ask you about YOUR task..YOUR role...Not mine He wants you to be YOU, not me!
Lit: Assign: *Give something to someone:* He isn't asking you to do something you can't! **GAVE TO YOU**
Prayer: God...What is MY task/role? Do I plant, do I water, do I harvest?
Illus: Ashley's Closet: Some Donated cloths, Some organized, Some worked day of, Some donated fund
All of that came together to bless people, to plant spiritual seeds: **EMAIL: Been thinking of Church!***

➤ Embrace God's task for you and DO it with all your heart!

Vs 6: *I (Paul) Planted, Apollos watered, God made it grow*

All you have to do is look at the life of the Apostle Paul and you can see the passion he served God with!

As he said later, Whatever you do...do it with all your heart!

If you give, give generously, If you serve, serve faithfully and hard, if you speak, speak words of God!

Listen, once you find God's task, God's Call, God's role...You will LOVE IT! And you will serve all your heart!

Illus: So many opportunities to step out are coming soon! Mexico, Winter Relief, Community Garden,

➤ Ask God To Work Through Your Faithfulness and Availability

Vs 6: *God made it grow!*

Listen, You can no more make a person grow spiritually than you can force a tomato plant to grow by talking to it
It is God's responsibility to bring about the growth, to produce the harvest. To draw them to Himself

BUT, IT IS OUR job to create the conditions that are CONDUCIVE to God's work!

We Plant Spiritual Seeds, We water those spiritual seeds, with constant prayer, with ongoing weed pulling,

When WE do our job..when we fulfill our roles...God does His Part!

Illus: God: Help me today to fulfill MY task: If I am the one to plant a spiritual seed, handing out card, I will

If I am the one to water that seed by speaking to someone interested in spiritual things...I will

If I am the one that you want to use to reap a spiritual harvest with a church invite, prayer with someone I will

God, I know YOU are the one that will bring about the spiritual outcomes...I am simply making myself available!

➤ Trust That God Will Give You A Reward In Due Time

Vs 8 *Each will be rewarded according to his own labor*

God sees your work, God sees your faithfulness, God sees your labor...and it is NOT in vain!

You may not SEE the results...and receive the reward right now...But God is faithful

~Maybe you will be blessed to see the spiritual fruit of your labor immediately

~Maybe you will see it in a year...or two...or five

~Maybe you will NEVER see it in this lifetime...But God is faithful! HE WILL REWARD YOUR LABOR!

Illus: Last Summer I was in Mexico for the first time in almost 10 years: RTBC had funded and built a church

This summer is the second church there...one of many around the world, Cuba, DR,

This past summer the final program

Was held in the building God used us to provide 15 years ago...It was amazing to see the fruit

Sometimes you are blessed to see it...sometimes you don't!

Sometimes you will know in this lifetime what God has done through you (30 years ago, group south built!)

Most of them have never seen the outcome of their ministry...but HUNDREDS have come to Christ: World

➤ Know That God's Work Will Out Live You

Vs 9 *We are God's Fellow Workers*

As a Follower Fit For A King, remember this. What you do for the Lord Jesus, serving Him, serving others

You are involved in an ETERNAL work! The ONLY thing that you will take to the next life...Is others!

There is NOTHING that will go with you. Just the souls of those that God has used you to impact.

And I don't necessarily mean those you PRAY with to know Jesus. I mean those you played a part in bringing

Illus: Lord Willing, And I believe that He is, We are going to build a church in Mexico this summer.

YOU can play a part!

Give: Pray: Go Paint: Go Build: Go VBS: Go Plan Party Go Give clothes

For a number of years with the first church, (One I Just talked about) I Didn't build at all: HELPED COOK!

But when I sat in that church last summer...saw 50 or 100 kids from VBS, all families..I HAD A PART!

Next year this time you are going to have one of two stories.

1. Our Church built a Church in Mexico...it was awesome OR

2. I HELPED BUILD a CHURCH in Mexico! It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life

CONCL: What Does It Mean To Be A Follower Fit For A King?

Don't under estimate self; Be Available; Don't be Afraid; Take the next right Step; Spread what you know

Offer yourself to God; Ask for YOUR role, Trust Him to work through you, Wait for Reward, Know Outlives

Today, I challenge you To Do A Couple of Things

1. Pray and make yourself Available

2. Ask Him to Show you your role...Your task... (Give, Go, Build, Pray)

3. Take the next right step...God will show you

4. Trust Him to Work Through you