

Calvary's Story – Each One Reach One

Did Calvary's story end at the cross? There is not a Christian who would believe that. The world desperately attempts to make this the end of the story. Even the Jewish leaders of the time attempted to spread lies that this was the end of the story. They bribed the guards to lie that Jesus' body was stolen. The story of Calvary lives on. Jesus' body was not carried from the tomb. **The body of Jesus, walked out of the tomb!**

The resurrection of Jesus is now celebrated around the world! The world calls it Easter. The Christians call it Resurrection Day. Of the exact dates and times, we may not know, but the fact that Jesus is alive is beyond question. Jesus proved he was alive by showing himself to many. Not just a few close people who might be tempted to lie. **But Jesus showed himself alive to over 500 people at one time. But does the story of Calvary end here?**

There is more to Calvary's story! **You and I are the 'more' of Calvary's story!** Thankfully Jesus provided for you and I. He did this when he commanded his disciples to make more disciples. Matthew 28:19 While you are going, *"make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Jesus gave a command to his disciples that would continue Calvary's story in order that people from that time forward would be a part of it.

We ought to be in the business of disciple making. The word disciple carries with it a number of thoughts. One thought is that of a follower. We know that Jesus spoke to many as he preached and said, "follow me." This was necessary in order to be able to move on the second thought. Paul understood this when he told the early Christians to imitate Christ. **We need to follow**, observe and think the same and do the same as we see Christ think and do. We can do this as we imitate Godly people who also imitate Christ. Paul said, imitate him as he imitates Christ. In order to disciple others, we must first be a disciple.

As we imitate Christ, we show others how to live. There is an old saying, 'monkey see, monkey do'. This may seem to over simplify the matter, but in its simplicity it gets to the bottom line. We are not robots that simply follow and do just to do it. Rather, we count the cost, we consider the options, and we consciously choose to follow Christ. To use a worldly illustration: If we see someone who has a beautiful garden, and we want a beautiful garden, then we watch and do the same things that need to be done to have the result that we want. We cannot expect to be successful if we do not think and do those things that will bring success. The same is true with our spiritual life. We cannot expect to live a spiritual life successfully, unless we do that which will make it spiritually successful. **We need to become disciples that others might have that example to follow.**

Contrary to the bad translation, the command is not to go into all the world (otherwise we would all be failing that command), **the command is to make disciples**. We need to be serving as an example so that others can follow and imitate the same. We do this by teaching them all that which Jesus taught. We are not to teach our own doctrine and opinion, but that which Jesus taught. As people choose for themselves to follow Jesus, **we are commanded to baptize** them. (Note: baptism is another area of failure on the part of many. Unfortunately there are those who either choose not to do this or attempt to apply their own opinion to what baptism is.)

But does Calvary's story end here? NO! **The command continues to teach**. We are to continue to teach all that Jesus taught. There is a maturing process that all must go through. None of us were born as an adult whether physically or spiritually. Born as a baby and grown to maturity is a process that requires all the love, care and nurture that is necessary for a healthy life. I heard a story about pelicans that illustrate this. "For many years Monterey, a Californian coast town, was a pelican's paradise. As the fishermen cleaned their fish, they flung the offal to the pelicans. The birds grew fat, lazy, and contented. Eventually, however the offal was utilized, and there were no longer snacks for the pelicans. When the change came the pelicans made no effort to fish for themselves. They waited around and grew gaunt and thin. Many starved to death. They had forgotten how to fish for themselves. The problem was solved by importing new pelicans from the south, birds accustomed to foraging for themselves. They were placed among their starving cousins, and the newcomers immediately started catching fish. Before long, the hungry pelicans followed suit, and the famine was ended. (*Bits & Pieces*, June 23, 1994, p. 17.)

Will we allow Calvary's story to end with us? Or, **will we continue Calvary's story, by each one, reaching another one?** We need first to imitate Christ. We then need to make disciples by teaching them to want to imitate Christ, baptize them into Christ, and then teach them to imitate Christ. May we never allow an end to Calvary's Story!