

This last study in the series is based on step 12 of AA: "having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs".

A Christ centred way to look at this step is as follows: *Having been changed by Christ, we now make ourselves available to be used by Him in the lives of others.*

The key phrase we will examine today is "make ourselves available". The goal of this lesson is to encourage you to get involved in the mission of Jesus Christ, regardless of your age or spiritual maturity.

1. Please take turns and answer the following:
 - a. Who in your life has influenced your faith?
 - b. What was it about this person that influenced you: what they said what they did or both?
 - c. Describe what was said or done.

2. **READ** *Luke 19:30-38*
 - a. This is the story of Palm Sunday. As you read it over discuss the role of the donkey, the donkey's owner, and the disciples.
 - b. What were the disciples told to say when taking the donkey? (vs. 30 and 34)
 - c. How is the story of the donkey relevant to us today? How could it relate to your own life?

3. **READ** *Matthew 5:13-16*
 - a. What can salt be used for?
 - b. How would these uses apply to us as believers in today's world?
 - c. What is the purpose of light?
 - d. What influence does good works have on the people around us?
 - e. How would you describe the relationship between selfishness and good works?

4. **READ** *Ephesians 2:11*
 - a. Who has prepared the good works that we should be doing?
 - b. How would you come to be sure you are doing God's good works and not just your own desires?

5. **READ** *Titus 2:11-14*
 - a. What are we to be eager to do?
 - b. Describe the contrasts to this 'eagerness' that are listed in the verses.

6. **READ** *Acts Chapter 22* and consider the following questions
- What elements of his life story did Paul choose to share?
 - What was the outcome of his sharing?
 - Do you think the mob's angry response was a surprise to Paul? Explain.
 - In light of the potential danger why did Paul share his testimony? (the story of how he came to faith in Christ)
7. **READ** *1 Peter 2:9*
- Who does Peter say we are, and what is our purpose?
 - How could the phrase "declare the praises of him" be interpreted to mean do good deeds?
8. **READ** *Hebrews 10:24*
- What are we told to do here?
 - Discuss various ways we could encourage each other to do good deeds.
 - How could we help each other and reduce our common tendency to selfishness?
 - What form of a good deed could you do together?
 - How would doing this together be an encouragement?
 - When could you do this together? Set a date and time.

COMMENT:

As we think about Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey let us thank the Lord that Christ finished the good works He came to do, in spite of opposition, suffering and even death. It is our joy as believers to work for the Lord, regardless of the outcome.

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Jesus ministry was characterised by helping people who were weak and rejected. Read Matthew 22. This scripture suggests that His people will continue in this manner.

Do you feel that Jesus may be leading you to minister to a particular group of people; for example, youth, infants, poor, incarcerated, depressed, addicted. If yes, what makes you think so. If no, what is Jesus calling you to do?

Fear often inhibits our willingness to confess our faith to others. Do you have any fears about professing your faith? If so, what are they?

The Apostles in Acts 4 (please read) prayed for power to confess their faith in Christ despite cruel opposition. Is this a prayer you need to pray? Would it be helpful to you?

SCRIPTURES FOR FOLLOWUP

Romans 13:12-14

Ephesians 5:8

Philippians 2:15-16

1 John 1:5-7

1 Peter 2:12

Mark 16:15

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GOOD FRIDAY at 7 pm '**The Power of Love**' a musical and multimedia experience examining the great love songs of all time and the discovering the greatest love of all time Jesus Christ. This is a great night to invite friends. It's free and so is the child care. Reception to follow.

(If you could, we need some food brought for the reception – sign up at the Welcome Centre Sunday the 20th or call in to the church office (705-673-6110) to let us know whether you will bring gluten free items, veggie platter, fruit platter or dessert.)

EASTER SUNDAY at 10 am THE **OFFICIAL GRAND OPENING OF ALL NATIONS CHURCH**. Join with us as we dedicate our building to the Lord and thank Him for bring us to this place. Don't miss it!

THE EASTER OFFERING:

Help us fund **PLUNGE IN THE PARK** our great community baptism JUNE 26th, provide the Good Friday service free to all, and help with coving the expenses of owning our own building. Your continued support is valued now more than ever.