

<u>OWN THE VISION - *IMPROVE COMMUNITIES*</u>

Matthew 10:1-15

- **Celebration's Mission** - To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ and difference-makers in the world
- **Celebration's Vision - We pray God will use the Celebration family to: 1) Exalt Jesus** (Ephesians 3:21), **2) Transform Lives** (Titus 3:3-7), **3) Strengthen Families** (Acts 16:19-34), **4) Improve Communities** (Acts 8:5-8) **and 5) Impact our World** (Matthew 28:19-20).
- ***What are some of the greatest needs of people in Communities around us?***
- *"Jesus called His twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness."* (Matthew 10:1)
- **God wants to use us to bring help, hope and healing to people around us.**
- ***What are some steps we can take to be utilized by the Lord to bring help, hope and healing to people in the Communities around us?***

Improving Our Communities Requires God's People:

AFFIRMING OUR <u>IDENTITY</u>

- *"Jesus called His twelve disciples together . . ."* (Matthew 10:1)
- **A "disciple"is someone who is a student of someone else, who is committed to following their mentor's teaching and living by his/her values.**
- *"Jesus was aware some of His disciples were complaining, so He said . . . 'The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But some of you do not believe Me.' . . . <u>At this point many of His disciples deserted Him</u>."* (John 6:60-66)
- **Many people who claim to be *followers of Jesus* are only *fans of Jesus*.**
- "Only 6-10% of Americans are deeply committed Christians." (George Gallup)
- **Real followers of Jesus embrace His values and purposes for their lives - which affects how they live and what they do with their lives.**
- *"Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."* (Acts 10:38)

- **Real disciples of Jesus do what Jesus did.**
- ***What evidence is there that I'm a real disciple of Jesus?***

Improving Our Communities Requires God's People:

ACCESSING OUR <u>AUTHORITY</u>

- *"Jesus called His twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness."* (Matthew 10:1)
- **"Authority" is delegated power from a superior source (Luke 10:19).**
- Jesus to His disciples - *"I have given you authority over all of the power of the enemy."* (Luke 10:19)
- **Jesus has delegated supernatural authority and power to His real disciples.**
- **When we try to live for Jesus and do His work without His authority we end up defeated and discouraged (Acts 19:13-16), but nothing can suppress a Christian who has discovered the authority they have from Jesus.**
- Jesus - *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."* (Acts 1:8)
- **We access Jesus' authority for our lives when we are filled with Holy Spirit power, which enables us to: 1) overcome the Devil and devilish people (Ephesians 6:10-13), 2) live victoriously (Philippians 4:13), 3) share our faith (Acts 2:6-11), and 4) serve the Lord and help people (Acts 2:44-45, 4:35-38).**
- ***What steps do I need to take to access Jesus' authority for my life?***

Improving Our Communities Requires God's People:

GETTING INVOLVED IN <u>MINISTRY</u>

- *"Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: . . . '<u>Go and announce to them (God's lost sheep) that the Kingdom of Heaven is near</u>. <u>Heal the sick</u>, <u>raise the dead</u>, <u>cure those with leprosy</u>, and <u>cast out demons</u>. Give as freely as you have received!'"* (Matthew 10:5-8)
- **Jesus has called us to bring God's *Transformation Power* to people -** *"Go and announce to them the Kingdom of Heaven is near."*
    - **Experiencing God's Kingdom brings salvation to people's lives.**
    - *"Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."* (Matthew 4:17)
    - **Experiencing God's Kingdom brings satisfaction to people's lives.**
    - *"The Kingdom of God . . . is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 14:17)
    - **The Lord wants us to be involved in bringing people into His Kingdom (Acts 1:8).**
    - ***I can bring godly transformation, righteousness, peace and joy to people around me by _____.***
- **Jesus has called us to bring God's *Healing Power* to people -** *"heal the sick."*

    - **Lots of people around us need healing from illnesses and injuries, but also healing in their hearts and minds.**
    - ***I can bring help and healing to people around me by _____.***
- **Jesus has called us to bring God's *Resurrection Power* to people -** *"raise the dead."*
    - **Lots of people around us have dead dreams, hopes and relationships.**
    - *"The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord."* (Acts 9:42)
    - ***I can bring Jesus' resurrection power to people's lives, circumstances and relationships by _____.***
- **Jesus has called us to bring God's *Restoration Power* to people -** *"cure those with leprosy."*
    - **Lots of people around us have become isolated from others because of illnesses, choices or struggles.**
    - *"A man with leprosy approached Jesus . . . 'Lord,' the man said, 'if You are willing, You can heal me and make me clean.' Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' He said. 'Be healed!' And instantly the leprosy disappeared."* (Matthew 8:1-3)
    - **I can help others become healed and restored by _____.**
- **Jesus has called us to be involved in bringing God's *Liberation Power* to people** - *"cast out demons."*
    - **Lots of people around us struggle with hurts, habits and addictions.**
    - *"A crowd saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane."* (Mark 5:15)
    - **I can help others get "free" by _____.**
- ***What steps do I need to take to carry out Jesus' ministry to people?***

- **When we're living as real disciples of Jesus in His authority and carrying out His ministry in the communities around us, He will provide for our needs (Matthew 10:9-10, Philippians 4:19).**
- "Only 6-10% of Americans are deeply committed Christians, but those Christians have happier lives and stronger families." (George Gallup).
- **The Lord is looking for Spirit-filled disciples - Christians who are growing in their relationship with Him, operating with His authority, carrying out His ministry, and making a difference in the communities around them.**
- ***I'm going to accept Jesus' challenge and _____.***
- **24 DAYS OF IMPACT begins October 31 (October 31 - November 23).**