
ACTS: Use me O Lord

June 25, 2006

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St. Paul had a vision of man begging him, "Come help us." What vision for action has God placed in your heart and mind? How do you know its God's vision and not something else? What can you do with the vision God has for your life?

Acts 16:6-10

⁶Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

For Personal Study

When Paul and his companions were traveling through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia, the Holy Spirit prevented them from entering the Province of Asia or Bithynia. I imagine that Paul might have had his mind made up that this is where they were going to go and preach, and he was comfortable with his decision. Paul had a vision, in which, a man of Macedonia was standing and begging him to come over to Macedonia and help us. Paul concluded that God had called them to go and preach the gospel to the people in Macedonia. This was definitely not in Paul's plan and probably not in his comfort zone.

You do not have to volunteer to go on a mission to a foreign country, to step out of your comfort zone. It can be as simple as offering to pray for

someone or saying grace before a meal in a restaurant. God calls us to do marvelous things for Him; all we need to do is trust Him and take that first step. Take that step and the giant leaps in faith will come. It's amazing what God can accomplish through us, if we let Him.

According to a fable, (of course we know that a fable is not truth, but it can contain truth) after Jesus ascended into heaven, the angels asked Him where He had been. He told them and He also told them about His plan for salvation. The angels said that's great, these people can come to heaven, but how are the people going to know the plan? Jesus replied that I've left a command to my disciples to be witnesses and to share my plan and the angel said

"what if they don't?" Jesus replied, "I have no other plan."

How can you be sure that you are part of Jesus' plan for the salvation of others?

Readings & Questions



Turn to page 2 for more inspiration and learning, on your own or in a group!

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Readings & Questions for Daily Discovery or Group Discussion

Monday, June 26th

Jesus called the disciples to be “fishers of men,” and they said “yes.” To what call of God are you saying “yes”?

Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday, June 27th

How do you recognize the voice and call of God?

John 10:1-5

Wednesday, June 28th

What “good work” do you feel God has in mind for you?

Ephesians 2:6-10

Thursday, June 29th

Where do you have an open door for ministry now? How will you take advantage of it?

Acts 16:10

Friday, June 30th

What excuses and fears are holding you back from receiving blessings and being a blessing to others?

Acts 9:10-17

God's Church in Action

“From Trauma to New Life”



Pakistan

When designating a specific disaster, 100 percent of your gift is used for emergency relief and long-term recovery efforts following that disaster. Undesignated gifts to ELCA Disaster Response allow for a prepared and effective response where

and when it is needed most. To learn more go to www.elca.org/disaster.

A girl in a tent city outside Balakot, Pakistan picks through clothing that was deposited for earthquake survivors. Everyone hopes more help will come, shelter and food in particular. International relief aid poured into the area immediately following the massive earthquake that hit parts of Pakistan and India on October 8, 2005, but the logistics of the mountainous region caused many delays. In all, more than 87,000 people lost their lives. And the ensuing winter caused immeasurable hardships to the survivors.

ELCA International Disaster Response funds helped partner Church World Service engage in earthquake relief by providing tents and distributing food packages. It was not easy, as many materials had to be dropped in by helicopter. Your gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response help fund the long-term recovery efforts, too. The work continues as people are brought from their trauma to a new life.



There are many ways to serve the needs of the poor and down-trodden around the world. In the past year, the St. John “Piecemakers” have made over 94 quilts and 117 baby layettes for Lutheran World Relief, meeting basic human needs for people affected by disasters. Who’s needs have been on your heart?