

What am I supposed to do? I feel so helpless. My wife tells me to write my congressman, and voice my opinion. But I have this negative attitude that if I do, my letter is opened quickly by an aide, my name is written down, and the letter tossed out.

Meanwhile, Riots are taking place in major cities throughout the United States. On the news, I saw a picture of a pile of bricks strategically left in an area where later domestic terrorists could fling them at police officers. Their strategy is to put the lambs in front, who are peaceful, while they are behind hurling rocks. It is no longer about the unjust death of an African American man killed by a white police officer. Rather it is about the overthrow of our government, and the establishment of Socialism in the United States.

Police officers and secret service agents who are supposed to protect the president and keep us safe are being brutally beaten up by the mob. Politicians don't want to respond forcefully so they don't lose support in the November elections. They feel that by being nice to the mob, the mob will be nice to them. What planet do they live on?

Meanwhile, China continues to look at increasing its dominance in the world. Hong Kong and Taiwan are in their sites as prime targets. China has effectively, destroyed the economies of the world, and moved into a dominant position. What hurts me too, is that I love and care about all races of people. I want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. And yet, I am referred to as a white racist. That it was the people with my color of skin that were responsible for the oppression we see in our land.

So what am I supposed to be doing? Should I buy food supplies and store them in the second bedroom. Should I buy a ton of bottled water or ammunition. Should I put my retirement money in a Swiss Bank Account? Or should I buy silver and gold?

Now don't get me wrong. It is a good idea to plan for an eventual revolution or depression. But I need to have more trust in God. He told me things like this would happen before Judgment Day. He told me I would be in a minority, vs. those who are opposed to Christians. He told me to Fear not. That the gates of hell will not prevail against Christ's church. He wants me to simply, Trust Him. But in the meantime, he does have work for me to do. He wants me to quit hiding in my house. He wants me out on the streets, marching. However, No brick throwing. No smashing cars, no taking a shopping cart and looting Walmart. Rather, I am to carry a sign, that everyone needs to read. Join me today as we display that sign, and embark on "Takin It To The Streets!"

Jesus spoke these words at the very end of his ministry, after he had died and had risen from the dead. Right before he ascended into heaven, he met with the eleven disciples in Galilee. When they saw him, they worshiped him. But some doubted, we are told. Then Jesus told them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." All authority - in our world, there has never been anyone with that much authority. Even the top man in our country, the president, is limited in his authority. There are checks and balances

But look at the authority of Jesus Christ. He doesn't need to get the thumbs up from congress or the voters, because his vote is the only one that counts. He doesn't need to consult the experts, because he is the top expert on everything. Every saint and angel in heaven listens to him. All authority in heaven and on earth is his. And so this morning, we go to the top authority, Jesus Christ, and we ask him, "What do you want us to do?"

He tells us. Be proactive. Go. Go with the distinct purpose of making disciples of everyone you come into contact with, all nations.

Why does this have to done? I mean, most people in our world believe in God. True, but most people don't understand how to truly access God, so God is your friend. How do you

access God? Let's look at the world's approach.

A popular catch phrase in today's Christianity talks about "experiencing God." The way they attempt to do access God revolves around the mood. Maybe you have been to one of those churches. The band is fabulous. The music makes you want to clap your hands. The place is crowded. The minister is a mojo preacher. This is the popular way of trying to get access to God in mainline Christianity. I can feel God's presence if the right mood is set.

On the other side of the spectrum of Christianity, is a group of people who are afraid to even try to approach God or get Him to approach them. They are told to pray to the saints - who can then pray for them. Even when they die they do not feel ready to access God - but feel assigned to go to a place called purgatory where they can be properly prepared to meet him. Outside of Christianity, you'll see people doing really crazy things to try and access God. Remember when that Heaven's Gate cult all ate poisoned Jell-O in the hopes they would catch God who was coming through town on the Hale-Bopp comet?

Or think about the whole motivation of the suicide bombers - who think that by committing a suicide with a bomb and killing Westerners they will earn a place in heaven with some beautiful women. Their version of access to God means killing themselves.

Others just try and ignore the whole concept of getting access to God. They tell themselves that when they die they'll just become plant food or be recycled into a butterfly. They try and make this life so pleasurable that they won't even think about what will happen in the future. What they ignore is the fact they will have to meet God.

When Jacob had to return to the Promised Land, he knew that he had to face Esau - his angry brother whom he had cheated of the birthright. So he tried to appease his brother with riches and flattery. When Esther tried to approach the evil but powerful king Xerxes, she did her best to make herself look as good as possible so he would allow her to come into His presence. The holy God cannot be approached this way. You can't give God anything - because He already owns it all. You can't do anything to impress God so that He'll allow you to come near Him.

So how DO we approach Him? Our holy God has provided a completely different way to access Him. Paul told the Romans - since we have been justified through faith, . . . we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. (Ro 5:1-2) Just as only the right password will give you access to your online bank account, so it's only through Jesus that we have access to God, and full access at that! Having full access to God means that you will never get a computerized menu of options, or an angel who puts you on hold when you want to talk to God. Through faith in Jesus you have direct access in prayer to the CEO of everything. Having full access to God means that you weren't given a spectator's ticket to the concert of God's grace; you have a backstage pass that allows you to get close and personal with God.

Do you see what's so amazing about this rescue God pulled off through his Son, Jesus? He didn't rescue cuddly little puppies but snarling gators that snap at any hand that tries to guide them. It wasn't an easy or cheap rescue either. God didn't just wave a wand and forgive our sins. He sacrificed his own Son. Would you do that? Would you send your son to rescue a child molester if you knew your son would lose his life in the process? That's what God did...and for free. You'll never receive a bill in the mail for what God did to save you from hell fire. Yes, this is the greatest rescue ever not just because of its objective - to save the ungodly, but also because of its scope. Jesus' death on the cross pays for the sins of the whole world. There is not one person here, or driving down Buena Vista or Morse Avenue right now, or doing time at Coleman prison whose sins have not been forgiven by the blood of Jesus. For "While we were still sinners," assures Paul, "Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8b). Peace with God is another benefit of

God's grace (Romans 5:1b).

You and I are surrounded by people who claim to be spiritual and pray once in awhile when they're in trouble. And yet, they really don't know what Jesus Christ has done for them. They are concerned about terrorism, concerned about the economy. They have health problems, family problems. They say that they believe in God, but they have no idea what the Bible says about God, and they're too busy to find out. You have them as neighbors, you see them at the golf course, you run into them at the Chop House. Jesus tells you that he doesn't want you to wait for them to come to church, because they probably won't. Instead, he wants you to go to them, go with the intent that oneday they become disciples of Christ..

How are disciples made? The answer is, by using the proper tools. Jesus tells us what tools to use when he says, "Go and 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." Do you see the tools that Jesus tells us to use? One tool is Baptism..

When Jesus says that we make disciples by baptizing, we realize that the making of disciples is not something we do; it's God's work. Sure we apply the water and speak the words of baptism but it's the triune God who works through the sacrament to save. We only play the part of the lawyer who gets the adoption papers ready, while God does the signing and actual adopting. And that is what happens in baptism. We are adopted into God's family. We who were once known as rebellious, ungrateful, and loveless are given new names. We take on the Father's name and are known as "loved". We take on the Son's name and are known as "forgiven". We take on the Holy Spirit's name and are known as "believer".

Baptism changes a person from a clueless, lost, unbeliever, into a disciple of Jesus Christ who will someday go to heaven. God the Holy Spirit, works behind the scenes in baptism, and changes the soul. Every time someone is baptized, the Holy Spirit is working, changing the soul, making disciples.

Baptism is a tool Jesus tells us to use as we reach out and make disciples. And along with that tool comes the written Word of God – teaching everything Jesus has commanded. Jesus doesn't need people with game show host personalities. He doesn't need you to become a Bible professor who runs around spouting off his knowledge. He's looking for simple people, who share a message that we have a God who expects perfection from us. Standards we haven't met. We now deserve punishment. But our God supplied us with the only remedy. He sent his Son Jesus to take our punishment upon himself, and supplied us with the righteousness we need to stand before God. And this becomes ours by faith. As the Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." This is the primary message we are to share.

So are you ready to march. God is providing us an opportunity to take this message to the Streets. Join me in a peaceful demonstration. No spitting. No brick throwing. No shoplifting. No Molotov cocktails thrown into police cars. What we have to offer alone can calm the riotous spirit around us. Make a difference. Make Disciples of all nations!