

Sermon Outline

How Christ Builds His Church

Luke 6:12-19

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

I. ***Christ Builds His Church By His Intercession – Luke 6:12***

Isaiah prophesied that the suffering servant would “intercede for many”. This reminds us that the whole of Jesus life and death is priestly intercession. And he continues this intercessory work as our Living Head and Savior – Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25

? Luke 22:31-32

II. ***Christ builds His Church by His Apostles – Luke 6:13-16***

The Church is built on ‘the foundation of the apostles and prophets’ (Ephesians 2:20). We confess that we believe in “one holy catholic and apostolic church.” The Apostles did not found multiple, competing communities of faith; on the contrary they were unified and gave a unified witness. We are to be united with them in the truth they proclaim – John 17:20-21; Revelation 21:14

* The names/designations “Presbyterian” or “Baptist” or “Lutheran” are not going to last into eternity. These are NOT our foundational identity.

* I do not despise my denomination – far from it. I believe that the PCA was raised up as a raft of rescue in a sea of unbelief. But rafts are not the “navum” that is God’s permanent plan for His Church.

III. ***Christ Builds His Church by His Power – Luke 6:17-19***

Christ’s power was revealed to the broken and bound. He could have done this simply on his own. The Spirit was upon him. But he did not. The late Henri Nouwen relates three words that show how Jesus served the world in power. These must also characterize our ministry, if indeed we expect to see Jesus Christ’s life and love in the streets of Austin.

A. **Solitude**: Christ was alone with the Father in profound communion. It was from here that he found true strength. From this emerged –

B. **Community**: Christ gathered and elected a community of servants. Here he shared his life and teaching in genuine serving love. In this way he magnified his –

C. **Ministry**: Christ bestowed salvation on the needy in the company of his apostles. With these people he brought blessing.

If we wish to be part of the Church building process we must pause and ask ourselves if we can answer clearly three key questions that arise from the Jesus Way of Building. First, do I have a place alone with God? We can’t substitute the people of God and the work of God for God himself. Second, am I joined to others in true community? God does not call us to isolation. Lastly, am I engaged in service with others? We must not imagine that the Church is a cruise liner rather than a battleship.