

22 January 2017 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings: Isaiah 9:1–4; Psalm 27:1, 4–9; 1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew 4:12–23.

Theme: *Word + deed = multiplication* - **Matthew 4:23**, “Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.”



I. WORD.

Matthew 4:23, “Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues **and proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom ...”

Matthew 4:17, “From that time Jesus began to **preach, saying**, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

John 8:28, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but **speak just what the Father has taught me.**”

Romans 10:17, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through **the word** of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 1:18, “For **the word of the cross** is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”



II. DEED.

Matthew 4:23, “Jesus was going throughout all Galilee... **healing** every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.”

Illus. **John 6:35**, “I am **the bread** of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Illus. **John 9:5**, “While I am in the world, I am **the light** of the world.”

Illus. **John 11:25**, “I am **the resurrection and the life**. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”

Acts 10:38, “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about **doing good and healing all** who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”



III. MULTIPLICATION (of disciples and ministry).

Isaiah 9:3, “You have **multiplied** the nation; you have **increased** its joy.” **Matthew 4:24-25**, “So **his fame spread** throughout all Syria... And **great crowds** followed him...”

Genesis 1:28, “God blessed them and said to them, “God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply** and fill the earth and subdue it.”

John 15:8, “By this my Father is glorified, that **you bear much fruit** and so prove to be my **disciples**.” What’s the formula?

2 Timothy 2:2, “the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to **reliable people** who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Illus. John 1:40-41, “Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ).”

Matthew 4:24-25, “News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him **all who were ill** with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed; and he healed them... **Large crowds**... followed him.”

Matthew 10:5-8, “These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons**. Freely you have received; freely give.”

CONCLUSION: You/we are called to by “multipliers.” God is into multiplication. God is into us! In Jesus’ name, Amen. Aldi ☺