

Dear Avoca Methodist Church Family:

May 2024

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can, in all the places you can,  
At all the times you can, to all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.

*-John Wesley, founder of Methodism*

For several years our church slogan has been BAD! Be A Disciple! So just what is a disciple? It's good to have a little refresher. In the ABCs of Salvation, the C is for "Commit our lives to following the example of Christ by serving others." Our faith in Jesus should be evident to others in the way we speak and the way we act. Our repentance, the change Jesus brings in our hearts and lives, should show clearly to others. Last week in worship I used the example of how a little flashlight doesn't show in a brightly lit room, but in the dark it is clearly seen.

There is no such thing as darkness! It is simply the absence of light. As Christian values have been diminished in America by laws, courts, and businesses, our culture has grown darker. Yet the light of Christ continues to shine and should be even more obvious to those around us. Even a little flicker of God's light is visible in a darkened world. As our society becomes darker, our light can shine ever brighter. Even a little light drives away the darkness. "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness," as many have quoted.

A disciple also makes disciples. As our lives demonstrate our faith, we must also be able to tell others the reason our lives are different. Giving someone a handout, a copy of the Gospel of John, or something else with the plan of salvation (like my business cards) can plant or nurture the seed. Its growth is God's responsibility, but we are commanded to do our part. It can be as simple as offering a listening ear, helping someone with a task around their house, or wishing someone a blessed day. You might be wearing something that displays your faith (a hat, t-shirt, or pin) or have a bumper sticker on your car. We never know what God may use to open the door for a discussion of faith.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be the branches; He is the source of power. We, as branches, should produce delicious and nutritious fruit, but we are not called to be the fruit. We are called to give glory to the Vine by being branches that bear fruit. The images of light and fruit suggest that we have a lot of work to do. It may seem impossible, but nothing is impossible with God!! It sounds simple—just live a Christian life. We all know it's not always easy, but the rewards are eternal!

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." And don't forget to **Bee A Disciple!**

*Pastor Barre*

