

One Mission Offering Report

Last week we had a first fruits offering in order to fund our One Mission Offering. We're trying to reach our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth according to Acts 8. The offering received through today was \$178,133.64. We also pledged over the next three years a total \$1,055,759.36. Although exciting in this economic time, this was short of our desired goals. The first \$100,000 goes to missions. We're going to continue to do whatever it takes to reach people with the gospel of Christ. We are going to learn to be patient and live within our means, just like we encourage you to do. The big win is that we've got a great start. If some of you would like to give, the One Mission Fund is always open. You can give online or in the offering baskets at any time in the future.

Thanks Living

Dr. Les Hughes

November 22, 2009

Scripture: Luke 22:14-23

¹⁴When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁰In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. ²¹But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²²The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him." ²³They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

Group Session

Opening Questions

What are you most thankful for today? What is one thing you'd miss most if you didn't have it? Thank God for that as well.

Has the economy made you more thankful for anything?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Even when we live in trying times, God has given us some incredible blessings. One of those is His deliberate plan. What is God's plan for men? (to follow Christ in salvation & discipleship.)

How are we doing at living our part of that plan?

2. God's deliberate plan also includes enduring some temporary pain. God uses pain to help us grow in Him. Paul says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." Romans 8:18, NASB

How has God used pain to grow you?

Why can't we learn and grow with less pain?

3. His plan also includes enjoying an awesome eternity. What are your thoughts about going to heaven?

Have you ever wanted to go on the next bus? Are those thoughts wrong?

How should believers think about heaven?

4. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed."

Have you ever thought about the pain that Christ went through for us?

How does that make you feel?

How can we live worthy of what Christ did for us?

5. God's plan includes putting his followers together in the church. 1 Cor. 12:26 says, "And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."

Can you imagine following Christ without the church? What would be different?

How is your faith strengthened through the church?

Closing Challenge

As we enter Thanksgiving week, spend some time alone with God to really express appreciation for His plan for our lives and for His many blessings.