

15. ALL PEOPLE

—Proclamation: In Word and Deed

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” -Colossians 3:17

After his resurrection, Jesus encountered two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus and he began to converse with them. Prevented from recognizing him, they recounted the story of the man who was rumored to have risen from the grave. They described Jesus as a “prophet, powerful in *word* and *deed* before God and all the people.” (Luke 24:19 NIV). After eating with him, their eyes were opened.

Jesus was a prophet who proclaimed the gospel *in word* and *in deed*. There is a famous saying attributed to Francis of Assisi, “Always proclaim Christ, and use words if necessary.” Unfortunately this is a bit of a cop out, because *words* are necessary, but so are *deeds*. As we trace Jesus’ ministry in the four gospels we see the power of his words as well as his deeds. And as we watch the early church unfold in the book of Acts and beyond we see the gospel spread *in word* and *in deed*.

As you consider Jesus’ ministry, how do you see the gospel proclaimed in both word and deed?

Matthew 4:23-25; 9:35

Luke 5:17-26

Luke 9:11-17

Luke 13:10-17

Luke 19:1-10

How do we see word and deed lived out in the early church?

Acts 2:37-47

Acts 4:13-22

What do you observe from the following passages?

Psalms 33:4

Proverbs 12:14

Romans 15:18

Colossians 1:27-29

Colossians 3:17, 23-24

1 Corinthians 4:20

2 Thessalonians 2:17

James 2:14-18

1 John 3:18

APPLICATION: 1. Think about the people who led you to Christ or who influenced your growth in Christ - how did they demonstrate both *word* and *deed*? 2. As you think about proclaiming Jesus in *word* and in *deed*, do you lean more to one or to the other, or perhaps to neither? Why do you think this is? 3. In your journal make a short list of the people you most would like to reach for Christ. In what ways will you love them with the gospel - in both *word* and *deed*?