

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

EACH OF US HAS A ROLE IN THE CHURCH

Luke 8:1-3 “Soon afterward He went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.”

Each of us has a role in the church. This was true in Jesus’ public ministry as He took with Him the Twelve, but also “some women.” From Luke 8 we learn Jesus did the preaching and teaching or as Luke wrote “. . .proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God.” Elsewhere in the Scriptures we learn that during this time Jesus was instructing and preparing the Twelve to carry out the public ministry once He finished His earthly work. And, the women, Luke says, were included “to provide for them out of their means.”

The church of today continues to function in a manner it first did while Jesus was still on earth. Some within the church “proclaim and bring the good news of the kingdom of God.” Others are taught and prepared so they are ready to become the next generation of proclaimers and bringers of the good news.” Still others carry out the function of the women by supporting the ministry “out of their means.”

You and all of your sisters and brothers in Christ are entrusted by Jesus with taking the good news of the Gospel out into the world. Your role may be serving within the body of Christ behind the scenes while others serve in a more public manner. Regardless, you have been chosen by Jesus to follow Him and to participate in spreading the good news of salvation using the gifts and abilities with which He has endowed you.

You, joined together with your fellow believers, are engaged by Jesus to be His “witnesses” (Acts 1:8) as a member of His body, the church “out of your means.”

Prayer: Show me, O Lord, what you want me to do and how I am best able to carry out my part in spreading the good news of salvation throughout the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call To His heav'nly banquet hall.

Tell how God the Father's will Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer's grace, who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price, Gave Himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.

Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!

Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all See Your light and heed your call.
(LSB 830)