



Touching Lives
with James Merritt



SERMON SINGLES

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

One Job

Matthew 28:18-20

INTRODUCTION

When we get to heaven and we stand before the Lord, I am convinced that one question he is going to ask us individually and as a church is this one simple question, “You only had one job. Did you do it?” We don’t have to wonder what that one job is because Jesus clearly spelled it out. What he is about to say is not just to pastors, preachers, professors, priests or professionals. He is talking to people of all stripes, all colors, all ethnicities, men, women, rich and poor. We all have the same job. As a follower of Jesus, you are going to understand why we only have one job and why we should always be doing it.

KEY POINTS

1. Provision Of His Power

One of the first principles of leadership is you never give people the responsibility to do something without giving them the power and the authority to do it. Jesus lets us know right up front we have that. “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’ (Matthew 28:18)

That word “all” is used three times in this passage, but it is this first “all” that tells us why we have to carry out the other two “alls.” The word “authority” literally means “power” or “executive power.” You may have the power to do something, but if you do not have the authority to do it you cannot exercise that power. On the other hand, you may have the authority to do something, but if you don’t have the power to do it you cannot exercise that authority. You’ve got to have the authority and the power to do something, and this word carries both connotations. Jesus makes this incredible claim that He has all authority and all power in all of the universe.

That is the same authority that Jesus has given to us. We have the authority and the power to share with a lost world that Christ is the only way and that people need to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus, that there is forgiveness of sins and eternal life to those who are willing to take God’s gift.

NOTES

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

One Job

Matthew 28:18-20

2. Process Of His Plan

If you are a follower of Jesus your primary job is not to come to church. Now you do have a responsibility and in fact a command to come to church. Your primary responsibility is to come to church so you can leave the church and go into your community, your neighborhood and your workplace to do the job you were called to do. Do you know what is surprising is that the primary way we do this job is never going to be in the church. It is going to be outside the church. In fact, we are to come to the church, so we can go from the church and be the church for people who don't even attend church. That is the process we should take part in if we want to carry out God's plan for our lives.

3. Promise Of His Presence

What he wanted his disciples then and now to know is we are not on our own. We are not by ourselves. We haven't been thrown into the water without knowing how to swim. We have his presence. We have it particularly and intensely and most personally when we are doing this one job.

As I look back at my life in following Jesus and you say to me, "When did you feel the presence of Jesus most in your life?" I can tell you for me and it goes right along with what Jesus promised here. I feel his presence most when I am doing this job - when I am sharing the gospel, when I am telling people about Jesus, when I am trying to get people to trust and obey. I have never done it that I did not completely feel like Jesus was completely beside me.

Let me put it to you this way. Jesus is most real to me when I share that Jesus is most real to others. So we have one job. Let me make it plain that this one job is for time and space. It is for all places, for all time, and for all of us to carry out. That is why we should all have our "one." That is why we should make disciples and get them involved in worship, discipling, serving and sending. We have his power behind us, his plan before us and his presence beside us.

NOTES

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

One Job

Matthew 28:18-20

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Do you live your life with the knowledge that you have the power of Christ inside of you, or is that truth something you often forget?
2. In what ways are you going out into your community to share Christ with others? If you're not already doing so, what is a way you can start?
3. When do you feel God's presence the most?
