

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: Did Jesus Need A Better Marketing Strategy?
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St Francis





February 1, 2017

Did Jesus Need A Better Marketing Strategy?

... His sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. And he sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village." Mark 8:26

Why Hide?

This reading from morning prayer today usually gives me a jolt. I find myself wondering, again, why Jesus did not allow this man, and others he healed, to go into the village and make a huge display of the miracle that just happened. Think of the crowds that would have been gathering after that news got around! Didn't Jesus want that? What kind of impact was Jesus expecting to make by having people who received miracles through His ministry avoid being noticed? I can think of two reasons.

Not Really Hiding

Jesus told this man to go home. That is at the crux of Jesus' strategy, mission, and ministry. How would this man's wife, mother, father, and children feel when they saw him walking on the road towards the house with his sight fully restored? How wonderful it is that they are the first ones to see he has his sight restored! It strengthens the family. The second reason revolves around what his family will now do. This household will now be a strong Christian household. The household will become a family on mission. As they share with other families and households the mercy of Jesus as they experienced it that same mercy will spread now from their house to other houses. That same strategy will continue on into the early centuries of the church, and be the heart of the spread of the Christian Faith in various times and places throughout history. It seems that Jesus was not after crowds in His day. He was after a movement that would not stop.

And Us?

We can shift to the same kind of strategy. We can shift from looking for crowds to looking for groups of friends and families who take up the cause of Christ together. A group of friends who want to serve a neighborhood in the name of Christ might see the mercy of Jesus spread from house to house. Is God leading you to a group like that? Does it appeal to you, even call to you? Ask Him to form your soul and direct your steps to join with others into a "family on mission."

Coming Attractions

Wednesday, February 1, 2017 Color Me Friends, 6:30pm. Contact Carol at carolsdream@gmail.com

Sunday, February 5, 2017 Worship at 10:00am. Pastor Don Coleman from East End Fellowship will be our guest preacher.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017,
4:00pm vestry committee
6:30pm Theology on Tap
7:00pm Caregivers' Support Group

Please bring nonperishable food to worship to be distributed to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Fee Clinic and Family Services

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Wells Fargo, Tommy Calhoun, manager, that business would increase and many families would have the financial ability to realize their dreams and callings.

Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Trinity, Washington; St. Paul's, Baileys Crossroads; Christ Church, Spotsylvania that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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St. Francis Episcopal Church
PO Box 303
Manakin Sabot, VA 23103

804-784-6116

vicar@stfrancisva.org
www.strancisva.org



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