

2014 Pastor's Annual Report

"Do whatever He tells you". These words were spoken by Jesus' mom to servants at a wedding feast. They were out of wine and the wedding celebration was about to become a huge failure. As those servants awaited their instructions I am sure they were thinking Jesus would have a plan or idea of where they could purchase or obtain enough wine to save the celebration. So when Jesus ordered up 180 gallons of plain water and had them serve some of it to the master of the feast, it didn't make a lot of sense.

The thing is, *"Do whatever He tells you"* hardly ever makes any sense. *"Cast your nets on the other side of the boat"* didn't make any sense to a bunch of seasoned fishermen at the end of a catch-less night of fishing. Telling the disciples to feed thousands of hungry people with a little boy's lunch didn't make any sense. Rubbing mud on a blind man's eyes and telling him to wash it off didn't make any sense. It didn't make any sense for Peter to step out of a perfectly good boat into a stormy sea just to take a walk with Jesus - on the water.

Neither does loving your enemies or giving to those who can't give back or welcoming home a prodigal child or putting others first, or going last, or forgiveness, or grace!

So, what does *"do whatever He tells you"* mean for us at Woodstock Bible Church this coming year?

Clearly He is calling us to love Him & love others with ALL we are and ALL we have. As we have been discovering each week, the greatest *"do whatever He tells you"* is to *love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself". Luke 10:27-28*

"Do whatever He tells you" is all about celebrating God's grace and serving others in His name. It involves inviting as many people as possible to gather together each Sunday and celebrate God's goodness & His grace. It also involves engaging as many people as possible in ways that bring help & hope to our community throughout the week.

It may mean leaving the comfort of a perfectly good boat and stepping out on some stormy seas, where, as the song says, "feet may fail". *"Do whatever He tells you"* will mean casting our nets on the other side & trying things we have never tried before. It will mean offering up whatever little or much we have to Jesus to multiply as He desires. Whatever that may look like in the year ahead, one thing we can count on is it will not make much sense!

The most important thing we can count on is that Jesus shows up big time, anytime, we *"do whatever He tells us"*. He turns water into wine and fills empty nets and multiplies however little or much we give to Him. He gives eyes to see and ears to hear. He let's us walk on water when we trust Him enough to get out of the boat and He rescues us when we start to sink because we doubt.

God has proven Himself faithful in so many *"whatever He tells you"* events in our past - especially this past year. It doesn't make sense that we were able to give away over 144,000 lbs. of food last year to over 9,000 people. He has multiplied ministry in Zambia & Israel & Poland & British Columbia & beyond. He has blessed *"whatever He told us to do"* in our building & in our basement & out on the Woodstock Square.

God is already giving us glimpses of what *"do whatever He tells you"* might look like. It doesn't make any sense. Thankfully it doesn't have to. Let's join together & commit ourselves afresh to *"do whatever He tells us"*.

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