

# Holy Action

If there is one thing that will save the world and make it what God made it to be it is action. Pure, selfless, loving action. The church is beginning to rediscover that it cannot just worship, it must serve.

1 John 3:17-18 says “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

If it were not for the church, countries like these United States of American would have never been founded. Yes, the search for fame and money have driven people to go to foreign lands, but the gospel is what remains far after the first two have faded away.

The very arrival of Jesus on earth was the direct correlation of God’s love for us and the means to show it. Christian faith began with God’s reaching out of eternity into time, and one day we will learn that this same dynamic is why the church, and the Christian, exist.

When Jesus began his ministry, he called his disciples to leave what they were doing and follow him. In his action, and their action to go with him, Christian action began in God’s people more than twenty centuries ago. “Take up your cross and follow me,” Jesus says. We must take it up, step forward, and never look back.

Words, too many words, whether they are the wrong words or the right ones, yield confusion and rust. We spend entirely too much talking in today’s world. Just ask our politicians, our community leaders, our pastors, and many church members.

Do you see yourself as a person who is the result of everything happening around you? This is the natural order of things for most people, but Jesus calls us to much more than that. We are not people something happens to, we are people who are partners with God in making things happen. I think President Teddy Roosevelt captured the image of action and inaction. “Get action. Seize the

moment,” he shouted by the way he lived life. “Man was never intended to become an oyster.”

The Christian life is designed by God to be anything but sitting at the bottom of the sea in seclusion, letting the sea flow through us and leaving the by products in our shells. We are called to be the dolphin, the sailfish, the ones who go and swim and sail and live in every part of it.

A great saying to put on your wall and live by is this:

“Don’t talk, Act. Don’t say. Show. Don’t promise. Prove.” I took the action of searching high and low for origination of these words, but have not found and am still looking. This is an action in itself.

The Christian life is really meant to be a holy adventure. There are tragedies and triumphs along the way. We will be criticized, and must wear it as a badge of honor, as we do things people do not understand, and follow a God many have not met. We will be misunderstood, and realize that we only have to please God. We are called not to a life that is easier than that of the world, but much more profound.

Some might say that we must wait until we can do exactly the right thing. Then Albert Einstein, Eli Whitney, Alexander Graham Bell, Joan of Arc, Thomas Edison, and Christopher Columbus would have never been known, for they would have done nothing. Between them, they helped make a world we could never imagine. “For every failure,” writes Mary Kay Ash, “there’s an alternative course of action. When you come to a roadblock, take a detour.”

You may not be able to move a mountain, but God can. You may do great things or little things for God in your lifetime, but ours it not to measure, it is to do. Perhaps we can pick up a small stone, a little opportunity, and do something about it by ourselves. “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”~Mother Teresa

We together are the church of God. We are progress, we are love, we are forgiveness, we are a body of believers which takes eternal action.

God commands his people to action. If they talk about it, nothing happens. But when they do it, history is made.

The pages of scripture and history are full of accounts about people who did something. The ones who did nothing, we don't know about. The difference with God is that what people do lasts forever. The chasm between following Jesus or our own desires is so great it cannot be measured.

When Jesus calls us to follow him, be assured that you will not be in the same place tomorrow as you are today. Geography, results, and words will be different. Because holy action always moves forward.