

Rev. Thomas Emery
“Imitating Jesus” - Mark 1:29-39
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 8, 2015

Who needs the church, when human needs formerly met by the church, are now being fulfilled through secular agencies and governmental programs? Does the church have any unique role to fill today in American culture? If it does, what is that role? What difference would it make if, tomorrow, the churches closed their doors; if we went out of business and directed our time and our resources into other human endeavors?

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point 1: *How clearly can you see Jesus?*

Teaching Point 2: *In Jesus, we find someone we can follow.* There is one name that stands absolutely alone, Jesus of Nazareth.

Teaching Point 3: *Everyone is looking for Jesus in his or her own way, and Jesus is looking to us to point out the path to Him.*

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

But Jesus replied, “We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came.” Mark 1:38 NLT

ACTION POINT

Christ’s compassion will go lacking without you. There’s no way for modern lepers to be cleansed without you. No way for Christ’s healing, forgiving, redeeming love to be communicated without you. Imagine that. Christ wanting and needing you. Martin Luther, overcome with the glory of knowing that Jesus needed him, even in his weakness, said, “God carves the rotten wood and rides the lame horse.” The ministry of Christ requires you. Rich and poor, strong and weak, learned and simple, young and old – Christ needs us all to be his compassionate presence in the world.