**Becoming a Disciple of Jesus (Oak Ridge, 3-12-2023)**

**Ever try to put together something from the store that needs assembling? Or like me, you try to do it without reading the directions? During the holidays when all my kids and grandkids were at my house; Beth and I had bought the three grandkids riding toys. It was decided that we would put them together in my garage so the kids could ride them outside. It was like Santa’s workshop in my garage. Confusing instructions, missing parts, each of the three toys were different in assembly, and sometimes it was very difficult to put things together; it eventually worked out and the kids were able to joyously ride their toys!**

Becoming a Christian, a child of God, a disciple of Jesus Christ is not like that:

* Not Confusing
* Not Hard
* Is the same for ALL

John the Baptist prepared the way (**Mark 1:4-5, Luke 3:21-22, 7:24-30, John 3:22-23, 4:1-2**)

Examples of folks becoming Christians, children of God, disciples of Jesus:

**Acts 2:36-42, 46-47** – Jews on Pentecost

**Acts 8:4-13, 26-39** – Samaritans, Ethiopian (Rejoicing – Knox Co. Schools – wind storm**; 1 Peter 5:8**)

**Acts 9:1, 13-18, 22:12-16** – Murderer and Apostle

**Acts 10:34-35, 44-48** – Gentiles, Household of Cornelius

**Acts 16:13-15, 25-33** – Woman (Lydia) and Jailer, both of Philippi and both Households

**\*All became disciples of Jesus and were saved in the same way! Jews, Samaritans, Ethiopians, sinners, Gentiles, households, women, and common folks were all told to do something that was not confusing, was not hard to understand, and was consistently the same for all! One is saved from their sins in the same way today!**

**No matter your background, nationality, or social status; GOD WANTS YOU! AND YOU NEED HIM! (Acts 17:26-27)**

Imagine that one day you realized you were guilty of sin and there was no way for you to be forgiven? What a hopeless place to be! Thankfully that is not the case. Jesus paid the price for your sins. When you obey, you give your life to the one who died for you (**Galatians 2:20, 1 Peter 2:21-24**)!

There are some here this morning that need to consider carefully whether they want and need to be saved from their sins! Belief is involved, Confession is involved, Repentance is involved, being Baptized is involved, and growing in the Lord is involved (**Galatians 3:26-29, Matthew 28:18-20**). Same message for all!

Why not be saved from your sins this morning, just like they were saved in the book of Acts? And if you are a Christian who needs encouragement or needs to repent, why not let us help you today?