

02/26/23 Message

Part of OneChanging the world - One at a time!

February 25, 2023

Message: Close

Series: One

This is a series based on God's call for us to change the world, one person at a time. Jesus modeled this in His ministry, and He teaches us to model it throughout our life - in the way that we live, in the things that we do. We model it through how (and what or who) we love, and the action of being His hands and feet, reaching one person at a time.

Most of us understand this approach to life. We look at maps that promise adventure and we think to ourselves, someday. Someday I will go there. It's not practical now, but someday. I'm overwhelmed with responsibilities right now - but someday. When I'm a little more prepared. When I have a little more time. When I have better directions. When it's a little safer. When I have more money. Someday I will go there. And so we sit and stare at clocks and watch the weeks go by. We look at pictures someone else has taken. We read stories someone else has written. We watch and see the life that someone else is living. And we don't seem to be aware of the irony. We spend our days staring at maps, but we never go on an adventure. Can you imagine how it'll feel to look back at your life and realize there were adventures God intended for you to have, but you never experienced them? There was a purpose God made you for, but you never lived it? There were opportunities God put in front of you, but you never took them? There were stories you were meant to be a part of, but you turned and ran in the opposite direction.

—Kyle Idleman

Someday

What if there is a purpose for your life, but you never lived it!

What if you missed out on the purpose you were made for?

What if your purpose was to change the world, one person at a time!

God's Will:

John 13:34 (NLT)

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

He goes on to say in v.35, your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples! Your love for one another will prove to the world that you belong to Jesus.

Proximity Principle

Instinct doesn't lead you to proximity, it leads you to distance, especially with:

- Difficult people
- Draining people
- Different people

It's hard to get "close" with people that are difficult, draining, and/or different.

Read: Mark 4

Mark 5:1-9 (NLT)

1 So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes.

2 When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from a cemetery to meet him.

3 This man lived among the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain.

4 Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him.

5 Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

6 When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to

meet him, and bowed low before him.

7 With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!”

8 For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”

9 Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.”

Jesus left the crowd to get close to one!

We look at people and we see monsters, we see freaks, we see people who are difficult, draining, and different, but I believe sometimes Jesus see us as difficult, sometimes He sees us as draining, and sometimes He sees us as different. If you get down to it, Jesus sees them, and Jesus sees us, and He loves us all regardless of how difficult, draining, or different we are!

—Pastor Chad

Churches that get away from their focus of the one - are like:

- Ephesus (the loveless church)
- Smyrna (the slanderous church)
- Pergamum (the false church)
- Thyatira (the immoral church)
- Sardis (the spiritually dead church)
- Philadelphia (the hostile church)
- Laodicea (the lukewarm and complacent church)

I don’t want to be that church!

—Pastor Chad

Get Close to One

Read: Acts 8 (Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch)

God called Philip away from the crowd to the one! He told Philip to get close to the Eunuch - then God opened a door for Philip to share Jesus with him.

Commit to yourself and commit to God

- I'm ready for the adventure
- I'm ready to live out my purpose
- I'm ready for the opportunities you have for me
- I'm ready to be part of Your story

It's the proximity principle - get close to someone!

Change the world, one life at a time!