

BE GOD'S REACHER — wk. 5

Pastor Hutchins COC March 9, 22 Week 5 - In the Beginning

Script. "19 ***Later on that day, the first day of the week, the disciples had gathered together behind closed doors, the doors were shut & locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus entered & stood in their midst, & said, "Peace be unto you."*** 20 ***And when He had said this, He showed them His hands & His side. The disciples seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. They were filled with gladness when they saw the Lord.*** 21 ***Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be unto you: as my Father has sent Me, even so I send you."*** 22 ***And when He had said this, He took a deep breath & breathed into them, & said Receive the Holy Ghost," He said, 'if you forgive someone's sins, they are gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, they are retained.'"***

John 20:19-23 MSG

I. **IN JOHN 20, WE HAVE THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE & THEY ARE SCARED, THEY DON'T KNOW THE FUTURE, NOR DO THEY KNOW IF THEY MATTER TO IT** ———

A. These Disciples felt then, how many people feel today —

B. There have been so many shifts, so many changes — that it might feel at times as if the ground under our feet is quaking —

C. People feel the earth shifting under the prophetic winds of the **Endtimes** —

1. We are living in the very last of the **last days** —

a. *John the Revelator's* Apocalyptic Pen seems to be etching the Breaking News headlines —

2. In fact, today, it seems that surfing the Banzai Pipeline is safer than waking up & reading our morning news —

- D. And it is in this moment, in these prevailing conditions, that many people stop dreaming, stop believing, stop reaching, & stop living ——
- E. Far too many people have given up hope, & have settled for a kind of life that is much smaller than what **God** had planned!
1. Settling for life that calls "*normal*" an existence with a mercurial temperament; a life of everyday mediocrity ——
- F. **God** has designed each of us to impact our world with the authority of **His** inerrant, infallible **Word** — which thrusts us forward in the power of its compelling witness, to flow in the movement of our unified Mission —
1. Missiologically, we are powered by **His** indwelling Spirit to meet our culture where it is — & bring a transformative Gospel that produces 'new life' ——

II. IN JOHN 20, WE SEE JESUS SPEAKING MISSIOLOGICALLY —

A. *"As I have been sent, so send I you!"*

B. To be sent by *Jesus*, is to be sent like *Jesus* — *(under authority & with power)*

C. If we *do*... we *become* *Ambassadors of the Kingdom* who transfer *His Word* thru doing *His Will* until it becomes operational in our *Principles* & in our *Ideas* —

D. **FIRST** — we must meet the NEED —

1. People are hungry — & it is our *responsibility* to *walk* in the **Confidence** of our *Lord Jesus* & speak into the real needs of people's lives —
2. People are asking questions today that require more than an intelligent opinion or an intellectual response, it requires a transformational word given from passion-filled heart of a *disciple* of *Christ*

3. People today are not interested in hearing the *Church* talk about the Synthetic Analysis on the Interaction between Eschatology & Soteriology —

a. They want to know what is happening to the *world* & how can they face their tomorrow —

4. Every time we assemble, we do so with one focus in mind — *reaching for the lost* & winning them to *Jesus Christ* —

a. Because new people bring new people.

E. **SECOND** — we're committed to creating a space where the unchurched, de-churched, & not-sure-about-church crowd can BELONG before they learn to BELIEVE — (Belong. Believe. Give.)

1. When you are a REACHER of souls, & you're inviting your friends, neighbors, coworkers, family, or friends — it doesn't matter if they are Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Hare Krishna, or Agnostic —

2. What matters is that we are the Church where they can show up & learn about this **Mighty Galilean**, our **Savior Jesus**

a. Not only learn about **Him**, but **be filled by Him with His Spirit** — experiencing **Transformational Salvation** through **Him!**

3. When we bring them, **God** meets them.

F. **THIRD** — we are focused on **discipling** & **equipping** our people **for ministry** —

1. **God's** plan for the **Church** is to have disciples of **Jesus** who are unified for **Church Growth** —

2. Church Growth should mean Souls won.

3. When you serve — you are playing a part in the **MISSION** **God** gave to **His** Church — to **win the world** to **Jesus!**

a. What is your spiritual gift?

b. What are your Kingdom passions?

4. In Eph. 4:11-12, *Paul* speaks about this & he says, **"it's our job to equip the saints for the work of ministry."**
5. Here's what we understand, if we do not get **engaged** in the **Mission** of **God's Church**, we are reduced to becoming a group of professionals doing ministry —
- a. when we do that, we miss the **transformational, experiential** elements & **power of the Gospel** that is to be at work in our lives —
 - b. *Paul* said it like this — "**the priesthood of all believers**" actually doing ministry
 - i. **"5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."** I Peter 2:5 ESV
6. It's the DIFFERENCE between a **Cruise Ship** vs. a **Battleship** —
- a. Explain:

- b. **On a Cruise Ship**, people sit around & have the stewards, the crew, & the host & hostesses to wait on them —
 - c. You're on a **Cruise** & you sit around doing nothing —
 - d. Everything that **needs** to be done is someone else's job & someone else's responsibility —
7. Some people approach their life in **Christ** & in the **Church** like they are on a **Cruise Ship** —
- a. If people are *lost*, it's someone else's job to tell them a testimony of salvation —
 - i. If someone is *hurting*, it's not my problem — the church should take care of it.
 - ii. I pay for a seat. I expect others to do ministry for me. I just want to sit here & receive —
8. But **ON the Battleship** — every person knows what their role is —

- a. They know their Assignment —
- b. They know their Place — (Role on the ship, their place on the team)
- c. They know that if they don't have a role on the Ship, they are off the team —
- d. Ladies & Gentlemen — **the Church is a Battleship, not a Cruise Ship!** —
- e. The Church is the place where you go, & you know exactly what your role is, & you know what you're going to do.
- f. If we stand up here & baptize **100 people**-that's fabulous, & we should all celebrate what **God** is doing in our church (community) — **(It's AWESOME)**
 - i. But the real question is: ***"How many of those people got baptized this week because of you?"***
 - ii. The work of **God** in **His church** has to get **personal** for us!
 - iii. How many of your children, your neighbors, your friends, your co-

workers have actually come to faith & been saved by **Jesus** b/c of you?

- g. It's great to celebrate the work of other people — the question is, has the burden of lost people actually affected you in the way you live your life?
- h. I want to share with you a few of our **Operational Values** at COC that we do in our leadership team, that must get into all of our people —
- i. **First**, we strive for excellence in everything we do because it is a reflection of our **Dedication, Holiness, Worship, & Stewardship** to our **Sovereign Savior** — it's the reflection of how we value His *love & grace* toward us!
- j. **Second**, b/c we pursue **God's will** with an **Excellent spirit**, we ask, "**how can we be creative (innovative) in presenting Jesus to people (better experience for them)**"

Show pic of Buses from Day 1 of our launch of COC!

k. **Third**, as a **church** we have valued **(from our inception)** the teaching of our children & youth about **Jesus** in ways that are **life-changing** - (pic. of Mervin & Karen praying with Jonathan last wk)



i. Here's one of the things people must understand — if we're to reach our post-Christian nation, **we must focus on our children & our youth** —

ii. Our **kids** are not coming here for us to play video games w/ them or hang out with people they think are entertaining!

iii. Our **kids** are coming here to learn the Word of God so that when they hit High Sch., they won't turn their back on **Jesus** & walk away from **Him** —

iv. Our children must experience the God of the Bible in their own lives —

v. Unless our kids have a **H.G. experience** with **Jesus**, & learn to love **His Truth**, they w/not survive t/ Sin of our Culture!

l. **Fourth**, we value **Authenticity** - we do not hide — th/ can never be **repentance** where there is not **Authenticity** & **Accountability** —

i. We do things as **broken/sinful** people, & we need **the grace of Jesus** —

ii. One of our **Core Values** is, "**Glass House Living**" — (show pic of Measures) 

m. At COC, we expect people to be real

n. One writer has said that **Authenticity** is the **best thing** a leader has in this world, that it's the thing that's most respected by the present culture (**Authenticity**).

o. When we are **Authentic**, then our **'brokenness'** (Testimony) gives permission to other people to be here that are not perfect —

p. Too many people think they must **GET perfect** before they can come to **Jesus**, but the reality is we have to get Jesus before we can be "**perfected**" **by**



faith, b/c **Jesus** is the **"Perfecter"** of our faith —

i. The Hebrew writer said, ***"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Pioneer & Perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, & sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."***

Heb. 12:2

ii. ***"perfected faith"*** is *faith* that includes:

• **Pardoning** *faith*,

• **Purifying** *faith*,

• **Penetrating** *faith*, &

• **Persevering** *faith* —

iii. It's interesting to note that the Greek word ***pistis*** translated ***"faith"*** means ***"a firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing."*** *It involves trust & trustworthiness, assurance.*

iv. *Biblical faith is a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgement of*

God's revelation or Truth followed by a personal surrender to Him. —

v. That's why the *Apostle Paul* would write: **"Faith comes by hearing, & hearing by the Word of God!"**

Rom.10:17

q. **FIFTH** — **we love like Jesus! Agape! Unconditional** ———

i. In **I Cor. 16:22** — *Paul* is wrapping up his letter to the Corinthians, having addressed their issues within & without the church —

a. In closing, in his final thoughts, he writes: **"I write this with my own hand. If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha."** **I Cor. 16:22**

ii. *Paul* didn't say, you're going to be accursed **if you don't have faith.**

iii. *Paul* said, **"you are accursed because you don't have love for God,"**

- a. **You don't have** *love* — you might believe in **Him**, but you **don't love Him** - you don't treasure Him —
- b. **Do you see it?** ——— We have to worship God every day by serving in His purpose ——— to show that **Jesus Christ** is **the Way**.
 - i. How do we do that? **ENGAGE!!!!**


III. **WE ENGAGE IN THE LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH** ———

- A. Engaged People **INVITE** people —
- B. **Engaged People** will **Disciple** People —
- C. **Engaged People** are **hungry** for more —
- D. Today, Attendance no longer drives Engagement — Engagement drives Attendance —
 1. It's the Revelation of those who can be **Trusted** with the Prophetic Anointing that is required to confront the Enemy —

E. In the *future church*, **the Engaged will attend because only the Engaged will remain** —

F. Ladies & Gentlemen, **people become passionate about the things which they are most involved** —

G. If you're really involved, you're going to be super passionate about it —

H. Engagement fuels Involvement,  Involvement fuels passion, Passion fuels Invitations — (soul winners)

Engagement > Involvement > Passion > Invitations

I. Engagement leads to Invitation, & Invitations lead to unchurched people being saved & following Jesus b/c engaged people are **Passionate People** —

J. **Engaged People** know what the Mission is, & they serve to fuel it, they give to it, & they live to it —

K. It's always the Engaged Christians who Advance the Mission,

1. Those who **just** Attend, who sit back in the bleachers with their arms crossed & never want to get engaged - they're not growing & they won't help anyone else grow —

L. *Early Christians* didn't just attend church, they were the Church, & the *Church* was **ALIVE b/c they were **Engaged** —**

M. At the *Church of Champions*, there are **FIVE WAYS we Deepen Engagement —**

1. We **create** a Clear Path to Involvement!
2. We **focus** all our Ministries around One Mission — (loving people back to the passion & purpose of Jesus Christ!)
3. We want to **make** it Impossible to stay disengaged —
4. We want to **challenge** People to Serve
5. We want to **build** Non-Downloadable Gatherings —