

BEING GOD'S REACHER

Pastor Hutchins

COC

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Week 4 - God's Reacher

Script. John 4:35 — **"Say ye not, There are four months, and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes & look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."**

I. **PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY! PEOPLE ARE COMING TO KNOW JESUS** —

A. The **Church** in the west must realize, that while we are seeing a **"great falling away"** (church scattered) there is also **a great harvest (gathering)** that is taking place —

B. The **Church** that is effective in this hour is that **Church** that mobilizes around **its Vision for its Mission** —

C. In *Judges*, we discover this pattern of Decline & Renewal —

1. After a *decline*, there is Renewal.

D. So then, if we understand that **God** intends for "*His people to prosper, flourish, to be fruitful, & Multiply*" (even as our soul prospers) — then the key for us is to have a **Spirit-led Mission** —

1. Because a Spirit-led Mission within the Church prioritizes the right things & dismisses wrong thinking —

E. Ladies & Gentlemen — Churches that maintain Theological Tenets, are growing.

1. The churches that have abandoned Scriptural Tenets & have pushed to become more culturally relevant are imploding from the stark pressures of this post-pandemic, post-Christian society —

F. When a **Culture** becomes dominantly **Secular**, & **secularization** is on the rise, it **does not kill** the **church**, but it reveals the **practices of religionists** —

1. Our **Secular society** should stimulate our **Church's** **innovation** —

2. The **Pressure of this Society** is **motivating** the **Church** — it's **shaping** the way **we do ministry** in our community & throughout our world —

G. In **Matt. 16**, we see the priority of **Jesus** & **His** **Purpose** for **His** **Disciples** —

1. **Gospel** — **Community** — **Culture**

2. If we get these 3 things right in a **Post-Christian world**, we will be effective!

a. **Matt. 16:13** — **"Now when Jesus came into the coast of Caesarea Philippi..."**

- i. It's fascinating to realize that **Caesarea Philippi** was not a Jewish city or a Religious precinct; it was **exceptionally Pagan!**
- ii. **This was the place that was against Jesus**, against *Judaism*, against the *Jesus movement*, against the **Kingdom of God** —
- iii. But here, **Jesus** is taking **His disciples** on a field trip to hang out in the very place that hated **Him**; totally opposite of **Him** —
- iv. **Why?** because **Jesus** always thinks MISSION —

II. **FOR US TO LIVE ON MISSION, WE MUST LIVE INCARNATIONAL** —

- A. We must live within the Context of the **Great Commission** —

- B. That means we have to do ministry that is shaped around by the realities of the culture & ethos of our community —
- C. To be "*salt & light*" — to be a "*disciple of Jesus*" in a secular world means that we're not always going to be comfortable, but it does mean that we must & will be always innovating —
- D. Our Vision for *God's Kingdom* is compelling & it is costly —
- E. *Jesus* is looking for Disciples who are sold out to *Him* —
1. I'd rather have 1 sold-out person, than to lead 100 Boring, deadbeat, non-motivated people who think sitting in the bleachers sipping *Christian Latte's* as a Consumer is "*Church life*"
 - a. Consumers are non-contributors who do nothing for the Church —

- b. If we have 1000 Consumers, we won't grow because they are people who are not compelled by a Vision —
- c. You know why? The only Vision that is compelling to people is the Vision that is Costly —
- d. A Vision that is so BIG that it requires you & I to have to Stretch in order to accomplish it —
- e. And the ONLY VISION that is compelling in this hour, is a MISSIONARY VISION —
- f. A Missionary Vision is a burning passion to reach Lost People with the Gospel of Jesus Christ & Disciple them into becoming His fully-devoted followers —
- g. A Missionary Vision is Driven by the idea that we are not primarily depending

on a program or systems, but we are dependent upon **the Spirit of God** —

2. You see, the Principle of Church Growth is **Mission-minded People** bringing **New People**, & those **New People** bringing more New People —

F. **Prayer** is the main way we experience a deep change in our lives —

G. **Prayer** makes it safe for **God** to give us most of the things we desire.

H. **Prayer** shifts the heavens & shakes the earth — **"But about midnight Paul & Silas were praying & singing hymns of praise to God, & the prisoners were listening to them; 26 And suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prisons were shaken; & immediately all the doors were opened & everyone's chains were loosed."**

Acts 16:25-26

I. **Prayer** is the *birthing place* of your next **Miracle** because **Prayer** invites **God's** Presence —

1. *"The Atmosphere of Expectancy is the Breeding Ground of my Miracle"*

2. *"Prayer is one of the primary ways we experience deep change, the reordering of our lives through **Jesus Christ**"* T. Keller

J. **Prayer** is **HOW** **God** gives us so many of the marvelous things **He** has for us —

K. **Prayer** puts **us** in the character posture that is necessary to handle the ministry assignment **God** has called us to —

L. **Prayer** powers the **Gospel** with Conviction & Clarity —

III. **LOOK AT MATTHEW 15:15** ———

A. *"He saith unto them, But whom do you say that I am?"* Matt. 15:15

- ➔ 1. The Gospel — Matt. 16:15-16
- ➔ 2. The Community — Matt. 18:
- ➔ 3. The Culture — Matt. 16:18 **"I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** — **Jesus**

Matt. 28, The Great Commission — **"Making Disciples"** is the Preeminent job of the Church — **"teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."**

How do we do our job?

- We run the ramp of reason before we take the leap of faith —
- It takes Vision & Leadership to do ministry right.
- The quality of service that people receive determines whether they buy into the mission —

- The customer doesn't come first, Leadership comes first.
- Excellence is core to what we do.
- Excellence in the details matter... because it creates a sense of value —

B. "THE APEX OF ALL CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR must be to place the Jewel of a Soul in the Crown of our Savior, that the Lamb of God slain may receive the reward of His suffering!"

Dr. Rod Parsley

C. Jesus came to us, He lived a perfect life before us, He took the wrath of God & died on a Roman Cross for us, & Rose Again to forgive our Sins & seal us in His Redemptive Plan —

D. Jesus came...

1. because we are separated from God without Him —
2. because we die in our sins w/o Him

E. Dr. Carson said, "If **God** thought our problem was a lack of entertainment, **He** would have sent an **Entertainer** —

1. If **He** thought our problem was political, **He** would have sent us a **Politician** —

2. If **He** thought our problem was economic, **He** would have sent us an **Economist** —

a. But, **He** didn't — **He** sent a Savior because our problem is sin.

F. To be an Effective Witness — a **Reacher** for that **lost soul** — we must be able to explain what **Jesus** has done for us —

1. We're not inviting people into a Religion.

2. Religion & the Gospel are **opposites**.

G. When we read in **John 8**, we find this **woman caught in adultery** —

1. The Religionists (Scribes & Pharisees) bring **this woman** who is taken in adultery to **Jesus** —
2. Watch this ——— **Jesus** says, **"I don't condemn you go and send no more."**
3. Notice this **Order** ———
 - a. Religion says, **"Go and sin no more & then I won't condemn you."**
4. The **Gospel** says, **"I don't condemn you because of My work. Now, go and sin no more."**