

Summary

This sermon focuses on the Christian's calling to share the gospel and help others find reconciliation with God. Using the powerful illustration of sharecroppers held in bondage in 1960s Mississippi, the pastor challenges believers to not be passive observers but active participants in God's ministry of reconciliation. The message emphasizes that every believer has been blessed with spiritual blessings in Christ, including the ministry of reconciliation, and is called to help others exchange their old sinful life for new creation life in Christ. The pastor provides practical guidance for evangelism: pray before you act, be a genuine friend without strings attached, listen more than you talk, be real and available during people's trauma, and remember that salvation is often a journey rather than a single moment.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning grateful for the spiritual blessings You have given us in Christ. We thank You for choosing us before the foundation of the world and for making us new creations. As we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want us to learn. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and give us courage to step into the ministry of reconciliation You have entrusted to us. Show us the 'whosoever's' in our lives who need to know You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one friendship in your life that started in an unexpected way or place?

Key Verses

1. Ephesians 1:3-4
2. 2 Corinthians 5:17-19
3. Matthew 9:36-38
4. John 3:16

Questions

1. The pastor shared that 20% of Americans don't know a single Christian. How does this statistic challenge or surprise you?
2. What does it mean to you personally that God 'chose us before the foundation of the world'?
3. The sermon mentions we've been given 'every spiritual blessing in heavenly places.' Which of these blessings means the most to you and why?
4. How can we be 'friends with no strings attached' while still sharing our faith authentically?
5. The pastor emphasized listening more and talking less. Why is this so important in building relationships with non-believers?

6. What are some practical ways we can 'be the church' to people in need rather than just inviting them to church?
7. The story of the phone salesman shows how relationships can develop over time. How can we be patient with the evangelism process?
8. What fears or obstacles hold you back from sharing your faith, and how can we overcome them together?

Life Application

This week, pray and ask God to put someone specific on your heart who needs to know Him. Then take one practical step toward building or deepening that relationship - whether it's having coffee, offering help during a difficult time, or simply being a better listener. Remember, you're not trying to make them your project, but genuinely caring for them as Jesus would.

Key Takeaways

1. Every believer has been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ, including the ministry of reconciliation
2. God chose us before the foundation of the world because He knows the choice we would make
3. We are called to find the 'chosen ones' - those God knows will respond to the gospel
4. Effective evangelism requires prayer, genuine friendship, listening more than talking, and being available during people's trauma
5. Salvation is often a journey, not a sprint, requiring patience and investment in relationships over time

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the ministry of reconciliation You have entrusted to each of us. Help us to see the people around us through Your eyes - as chosen ones who need to experience Your love and grace. Give us boldness to step out of our comfort zones, wisdom to know when to speak and when to listen, and patience to walk alongside others on their journey toward You. May we be faithful laborers in Your harvest field, bringing glory to Your name as we help others discover the new creation life found only in You. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.