



JEANNE MAYO'S

source

VOLUME 06.11
PROJECT 4:19

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PROJECT 4:19

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PROJECT 4:19

Matthew 4:16, 18-19, "...Upon those who sit in the shadow of death, Light has come." "Now Jesus, walking by the sea, saw two brothers, Simon who they later called 'Peter' and Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea because they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will teach you to fish for people."

(Older translation of Matthew 4:19 reads, "Follow Me and I will make you a fisher of men.")

1. In your daily life, are you a "fisher" or a "fisher of men?"
 - There's nothing wrong with "fishing." In other words, nothing wrong with your job, your school, your favorite sports, and life in general...
 - Up to this point, their occupation had been their pre-occupation.
2. There is no more important "business" on this planet than "the people business."
MAJOR on God and people...MINOR on "fish."
 - There's much more to life than meeting a good-looking eligible fisherman (or "fisher-woman").
 - There's more to life than figuring out how you can make enough money to buy more nets and bigger fishing boats.
 - There's much more to life than being popular with the other fishermen...or even being a "star-athlete" on the FISHERMEN'S ALL-STAR TEAM.
3. Next Wednesday night, we launch "PROJECT 4:19"...And OXYGEN'S priority goes on "fishing for people." We take the title from Matthew 4:19 where Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will teach you how to fish for people."
 - PROJECT 4:19 is a simple, fun competition between all of our O2 Groups to help put the focus on bringing new people to OXYGEN...and ultimately, to Jesus. It launches NEXT WEEK and goes through the end of February.
 - 1000 points for every one of us "regulars" when we show up each week.
2000 points for every first-time guest.
3000 points when that guest comes back a 2nd time. (does not need to be consecutive)
4000 points when that guest comes back a 3rd time.
5000 points when that guest comes back a 4th time.
 - 3000 points for everyone from your O2 group who attends the fall retreat.
 - Competition will be done on a "per capita basis." That means that the larger groups have no advantage over the smaller ones. So whether your group is big or small, we all start on "even playing ground." (For example: An O2 group that starts with 20 people will have to have twice as many points as an O2 group that starts with 10 people.)
 - WHAT ARE THE PRIZES FOR THE TOP THREE WINNING GROUPS?
4. Has this kind of ETERNAL MINDSET happened to you yet?

"White tags" vs. "Red tags"

Closing story: "A Red Tag Moment"

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A RED TAG MOMENT

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class while walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, “Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd.”

I had quite a weekend planned, parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon, so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw the terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, “Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives.” He looked at me and said, “Hey, thanks.” There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now.

I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said, yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, “Boy, you are gonna really build up some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!” He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had prepared a speech for graduation.

I was so glad it wasn’t me having to get up there and speak. Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous.

Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about the speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, “Hey, big guy, you’ll be great!” He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. “Thanks,” he said.

As he started the speech, he cleared his throat and began. “Graduation is a time to thank those who helped make it through the tough years; your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach... but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story.”

I just looked at my friend in disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying all his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile.

“Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable.”

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life - for the better or the worse.

God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others.

O2 Group _____ Date _____

How many regulars attended Oxygen this week? _____
(this number does not include visitors)

How many first time visitors did you have? _____

Who were they?

How many second time visitors did you have? _____

Who were they?

How many third time visitors did you have? _____

Who were they?

How many fourth time visitors did you have? _____

Who were they?

Total Number in your group this week _____

PROJECT 4:19

[Leader's Note: This time tonight is going to be a great chance for you to "rally the troops" and cast vision for where your small group is going to go these next few months. While to the students it is about the prize, as leaders we know that the prize is cool but we are in it to see more young people come to know Christ.]

Have fun with the night. Make sure you have a meeting with your leadership team prior to this meeting so you all know where you are going. You will want your leaders on the same page so that they can help you build momentum. For us, doubling our group was the goal, in our meeting we broke it down in a practical/tangible way; this means each of us is responsible to bring 1 additional person and they get plugged. Remember, vision is a vacuum that sucks people in. Give them a good picture of where you all are headed and they will follow you there.]

1. Alright, so let's take some time and make a game plan of how we are going to take 1st Place. What are some things we can do that would make it easy for you to invite your friends?

[Leader's Note: Let them game plan here. You may need to throw out a few answers to get them started, like having monthly outings away from the church or a game night. If they feel ownership in creating the outreach events, they will be more likely to invite their friends.]

2. What are some things we can do better as a family when new people are around?

[Leader's Note: Your best evangelism tool in your small group is friendship. If you want to see students come to your group and stay, create a friendship culture; a place where students feel included, welcomed and loved as part of the family from the second they walk in the door.]

3. What are some things we can do to help follow up with guests?

[Leader's Note: Follow up is another key area if you want to keep students around and your number one weapon is the phone. You need to have your leaders on the phone calling students once a week at the least. They need to know who missed last week and why. Responsibility without accountability fails so make sure you have a SIP (system in place) to make sure they are making the calls.]

4. While we all want to win, we also know that there is more at stake here than a weekend getaway. Tonight as we close, before we take some time to pray together, we are handing out some paper and pens and we want you to take this time to write down three names of friends you want to reach during Project 4:19. Then we are going to pray, first that God will give us a heart for the names we just wrote down, to want to see them come to know Him and secondly praying that our friends will be open to not only coming, but becoming part of the family of Christ.

[Leader's Note: Pray together for a couple minutes and have one of your student leader's close out the prayer time. Have them put their names somewhere they will see on a regular basis to remind them. As they leave, the atmosphere should feel inspired and motivated. Your students should walk out feeling like they can take on the world.]

CHARACTER THAT BACKS THE CALL - PART 1

by Darren Hileman

We must strive to continually develop and sharpen our character. I don't believe the development of our character is a one time event, I believe it is a continual process. In this lesson we review some character quotes and discuss ways in which we can develop character in our life.

1. Character:

- Distinctive qualities - the set of qualities that make somebody or something distinctive, especially somebody's qualities of mind and feeling.
- Positive qualities - qualities that make somebody or something interesting or attractive
- Reputation - somebody's public reputation

Proverbs 22:1, "CHOOSE A GOOD REPUTATION over great riches, for being held in high esteem is better than having silver or gold."

2. Character quotes:

- "Your charisma may get you in the door, but it's your character that will keep you there."
- "Our talents will sometimes take us where our character cannot hold us."
- "If your character doesn't back the call you will eventually fall."
- "Character is the will to do what's right even when it's hard." – Andy Stanley
- "We must take the "high road" even when we feel like taking the low one."

3. Character qualities we must strive to develop in our life:

Dependability	Discipline
Trustworthiness	Organization
Steadfastness	Compassion
Responsibility	Approachability
Loyalty	Geniuses
Patience	Consistency
Honesty	Courage
Submissiveness	Humility
Diligence	Faithfulness
Truthfulness	

Ways to develop Character in our life:

1. Character is the result of being intimate with Christ.

- Spirits do reproduce spirits.
- We must pray, "Father, help me to be what you want me to be so that I can do what you want me to do."
- God desires for His character attributes to be a part of our life in order that His kingdom may be further established on this earth.
- The only way we can become more like Christ in our character is if we make the choice to stay connected to Christ.
- We must choose to be intimate, "in-to-me-see," with Christ.

Galatians 4:19, "But oh, my dear children! I feel as if I am going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until CHRIST IS FULLY DEVELOPED in your lives."

2. Character is the result of having good covenant companions.

Proverbs 27:6, 17, "Wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy. As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend."

- "What small thing in my life right now has the potential to grow into a big thing and who knows about it other than me?" – Andy Stanley

3. Character is the result of having good spiritual coaches.

- We must be self revealing to our spiritual coaches and give them the right to have a place of authority in our life.
- We must learn from history, not repeat it

4. Character is the result of dealing with difficult times in a God honoring way

James 1:2-8, "Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be STRONG IN CHARACTER and ready for anything. If you need wisdom, if you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that you really expect Him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. They can't make up their minds. They waver back and forth in everything they do."

- We must learn to embrace pressure, for pressure can produce character in the person.



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