

#Fix This

The Me Fix

January 31, 2016

PRELUDE – Who is Like Our God

Songs – Saving One/Called Me Higher

Turn and Greet – Nathan

Announcements - Ladell

Band – “Day One”

Offering

REVIEW

Well good morning everyone. As Ladell said we are concluding our series today. We started this series #FixThis four Sundays ago and as Rick shared this series came to be as a result of the New York Daily News Headline that appeared following the tragedy in San

Bernardino.

And though we could go in to the mudslinging that transpired following the article surrounding gun control and prayer shaming and political commentary, for the purposes of our series, we have been talking about what the headline implies especially for those of us who believe in and follow Jesus Christ.

As Rick shared last week, our God is a fixer. He's in the redemptive and restoration business. In week one, we took a look at the Christmas Fix. The angels proclaimed peace on earth and good will towards men, so why do we still have so much tension, pain and violence? We learned that when Jesus came to earth we began to understand more about the battle that was and is still going on. The

battle between the enemy of God, Satan and his forces, and God and His forces.

In week two, we took a look at the prayer fix and whether or not prayer fixes anything. We learned that our prayers are a way for us to join God and his forces in the battle. Though we may not get an immediate response to our prayers, they do matter and they do get answered just not always the way we want or in the time we want as we saw from the faith filled prayers of Martin Luther King, Jr. who didn't see his prayers answered in their fullness before he passed. And so we learned as part of that message that we need to pray simply, urgently and often.

And last week, we took a look at the Final Fix and we were reminded that one day Jesus

will return and he will hit the proverbial “reset” button. He will renew and judge all creation to make it new and make it right. And that time is yet to come in hopes that as many people as possible will turn to the Lord.

As always, if you have missed any of the previous weeks, I want to encourage you to take some time this week to get caught up. You can watch, listen or read the messages on-line at our website or our app.

As I was processing through these last messages and the question for today, “Can God change my life today?” ...it became clear that...

OUR PROBLEM WITH GOD’S PLAN

We lack perspective and we desire control.

Rick forwarded me a quote from a pastor that I think nailed this on the head. In his blog post following the New York Daily News headline, Pastor Michael Eichstadt of Messiah Lutheran in Wisconsin writes:

“The headline really should read: “God isn’t fixing this the way we think He should.” Sinful human nature is quick to tell God what and how He should run the world and our lives. The “fix” that many want to see is an end to all violence. Who wouldn’t want that? God could simply say the word, and there would be no more violence anywhere.

But that would not solve the underlying problem. It would be like using a band-aid to treat an invasive cancer. The real source, not

just of gun violence, but of everything wrong in the world is the sinful heart. “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander” (Matt. 15:19). No amount of education or legislation is going to fix the human heart. In fact, there is nothing mankind can do to eradicate sin. People who are born dead in trespasses and sin can’t get rid of it. It’s impossible.¹

WE AREN’T ALONE

And truly we aren’t alone in this...in this thought that God needs to #Fix This and looking everywhere but inside the human heart for the answer. Since the beginning, far too often because of our sinful nature, we

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<http://messiahhalescorners.com/pastorsblog/2015/12/god-can-fix-this>

have lacked perspective and desired control.

In the beginning, when sin enters the world, Adam and Eve don't have the long view in mind. They don't stop to consider what God told them and the consequences of their disobedience. The serpent tempts them with the idea of being able to be in control, to be like God and sin enters the human condition.

And this continues through history and you can see it woven through the Bible, people lack perspective, they don't see things as they really are and they want to be in control.

Remember the Israelites, escaping Egypt after a myriad of curses, walking through the middle of a sea, eating bread from heaven and water from rocks and yet as they

approach the Promised Land, they are certain #Gods Not Fixing This...let's go back to Egypt. They lacked perspective, they desired to control things. They would rather trust themselves and their limited knowledge than to let God do things His way and trust that He has a perspective they couldn't yet appreciate.

Fast forward to Jesus' inner circle. Let's take a look at these verses from Matthew 16:

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

Matthew 16: 13-17

So Jesus is asking his disciples, “who do people think I am?” and Peter gives the exact right answer, the Son of God. The Messiah.

Amazing right? God has given Peter his perspective on who Jesus is. He is the Messiah but then something happens. Let's read on:

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Matthew 16: 21-23 (NIV)

As Jesus begins to explain how things are going to go down, Peter loses touch with God’s perspective and he desires to control

the outcome in the way he thinks it's supposed to be.

Hey Jesus...#You're Not Fixing This The Way You Are Supposed To. Go and die before the religious folk....oh no no no. That makes no sense. Clearly you have not figured out the plan... let me tell you how it's going to be.

You just need to listen to me and fix it the way I say.

Sound familiar? Just add more gun control. Just fix the political infrastructure. Just do what we say and this world will get fixed.

SAME IS TRUE IN OUR LIVES

And the same is true for our personal lives.

We so often don't have the long view.

Come on God, if you would just let me win the lottery I wouldn't have financial woes. If you would just give me a spouse, my life would be better. If you would just get me a better job, body, friends, church, I could have a better life. # God Fix Me the way I want.

We think we can figure it out and fix it better than God. And I know that's hard. It's especially hard in the midst of trials and pain and suffering.

GOD DOES HAVE A PROCESS

But God is at work. He does have a process.

But it takes longer than we like.

It's a whole lot harder than we'd like and certainly doesn't always look the way we'd like.

So can God change our life today? Yes but we have to be willing to let him be in control and allow Him to do it in His time and in His way.

And it looks a lot like this...Let's watch.

GOD'S CHISEL-VIDEO

Pray

As the band sings this next song, I want you to consider where you might be lacking perspective or where you are grasping for control, what is God saying to you?

INVITATION TO CHOOSE THE CHISEL.

To let God be God, to let Him be the one in control of your life and of our world. If you are willing, I'd like to invite you to make a commitment to that end and write your commitment whatever that might be maybe it's to give God control of your pain, of your worry, of your shame, of your tongue, to allow Him to do work in a specific place, whatever it is I invite you to write that on a slip of paper (paper is located in the seat back), fold it up and bring it to the front while the band continues to sing as a way to commitment to allow God's chisel to be at work in your life.

Friends, this is how God is fixing the world. It's always been His plan. He works from the Inside Out in the hearts of men and women who want to be transformed by Him. Just like the men and women before us, the disciples, the countless Christians throughout the ages, he invites us into the chiseling process. He invites us to let Him transform our hearts and our lives and as he does pieces of this hurting world are made new and made right.

In Acts 2, 42-47, we see what happens as the early church allows God to transform them and then begin transforming the world through them.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of

bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

And friends those believers began to change the world around them. Not in a moment, not in a hostile takeover, but one life at a time transformed by God. And I'm reminded again that here at NHCC we invite people to follow the same model as the early church, turn to

Jesus and allow God to work on you from the inside out and then join with others to devote yourself to the teaching of the Word (Discover), and fellowship with other believers (Connect), and use the time, talent and resources God has given you to advance His Kingdom here on earth.

Friends we are invited in. We are invited to let God be God and remember that only He has the true long view, the eternal perspective and only He has control over all things. And as we remember that, we are invited in to a process where He changes us, transforms us, and invites us to join with others who are in that same process and to stand together to renew and restore this hurting world.

God is Fixing This. His way. Through His

people and His church. Let's stand and sing this together.

Pray for us to be transformed, to share with the world the Good News, to join together hand in hand and pray for unity in our land.

Amen

Jesus was a master teacher. He had a way of taking ordinary, everyday life things and using them to teach about the Kingdom of God. He would use illustrations that people were familiar with to teach them a spiritual truth.

And that is why for the next several Sundays we will be doing the same. Many of you probably know a friend, a neighbor, someone you love who doesn't yet know Jesus.

Someone isn't sure that God is relevant in their life, who isn't sure about this Jesus guy. Friends these next several weeks are a perfect time for you to invite those folks to NHCC and together we can share the Good News with them.

Next Sunday, it's Football Sunday at NHCC. So wear your favorite jersey or team colors and be prepared to hear encouraging words from some great athletes and folks who are in the same process we are of being chiseled in to the image of Jesus.

Then following Football Sunday, on Feb. 14th, we will begin the series so many folks around NHCC love. That's right friends it's time for NHCC at the Movies. Let's take a look.

SHOW TRAILER

And that's what's coming up here at NHCC. So invite your friends and family to join us. And as you leave today, remember you can help make this place a welcoming place for those coming by joining one of our many volunteer teams. If you've been thinking about it, if you want to learn more or you are ready to get signed up, stop by the Volunteer Table in the commons today.

Let us go in peace to Love and Serve our Lord Jesus Christ and be chiseled in to HIS image. Amen friends?! Amen. Have a great week.