

Intro/Outro: You're listening to CPC Together, a podcast produced by Central Peninsula Church in the San Francisco Bay area.

Brandon: Uh, so Dan, you talked about your, um, you talked about your steel working days.

Dan: Yeah. Yeah.

Brandon: And, uh, with your shiny helmet, that long career. Yeah. Yeah. It got me thinking. I'm curious what your guys' first jobs, what, what your first job would be or what, what it was, and how your life would be different today if your first job was your, your job now.

Kevin: Was my- the same job?

Dan: Like what was your very first job?

Kevin: Man? So my very first job, it was a little later, I didn't get a job until after high school. My mom's-

Brandon: Did you work at [Breinn]?

Kevin: No, no, no. My parents owned a bookstore though, so I worked at a Christian bookstore, but that wasn't my first job. Um, but uh, so my parents always said if I played basketball or some sort of team sport, I didn't have to get a job. So, I played basketball. That made more sense to me. So, so my, the, the summer after I graduated high school, I got a job at 4H doing daycare.

Dan: Really?

Kevin: Yeah. So like, not, not the animal side of 4H. Okay. The same organization, but they had like a daycare thing and so I, I worked the opening shift at a daycare and I, in this whole thing, it was a small town. I was the only guy like in the entire organization, which means like when you would do, you know, like they, they did a day where they brought like the police out and did, you got to get in the car and they brought the K9 unit and so anytime there was anything that they needed a vol- an adult volunteer for. I was the one, so I got to put on, like this particular day, I put on like the, the bite suit. And so they had this, this German Shepherd attack me and I was like, they're like, do we have any volunteers? And like all of them, just look at Mr. Kevin, let's get Kevin. He'll do it. He'd love to get attacked by a canine.

Brandon: So, so you actually got attacked?

Kevin: I got attacked, yeah. They told me, they're like, it was crazy. They'd tell 'em to like, you know, whatever German commands they were giving 'em. They're like, wait, sit. And then they'd make me run and they'd release dog and would just like, like crash test dummy. Oh. And it'd latch on and you could not get it off. And, but the instant the officer said, whatever, "Nein!" You know, whatever German command, it's like instantly stop. And he'd drop and sit and he'd let me pet him. It was crazy.

Brandon: Was it terrifying?

Kevin: It was absolutely terrifying. . It was so terrifying. Cause they'd have 'em barking at you and the kids, you know, all these little kids were just like, this is so great. Like, they were just loving it.

Brandon: And so I was kinda wondering when I see him sick the dogs on, people like in-

Dan: Well he doesn't like dogs to this day.

Brandon: Oh yeah, yeah.

Kevin: Not a- not a huge dog guy. Maybe that's why!

Dan: You're in traumatized. You never dealt with your trauma . You know, when I think of 4H though, I think of crafts.

Kevin: Yeah. Oh yeah. Lots of those.

Dan: Yeah. And I. And that would explain why you could stick your comforter in your debate. Cause you probably learned that at 4H for those that are, are such a handy, a handy guy, tender man around the house. But you're really good at, I was comforter and I think all the crafts you must be able to do. (laughter)

Kevin: I must have learned there.

Dan: Do you quilt?

Kevin: Uh, I don't quilt, but, but for those-

Dan: Crochet?

Kevin: Who wondering what's going on-

Dan: crochet?

Kevin: I was telling Dan earlier today that my, maybe, maybe one of my more proud moments in the past few months was last night I successfully put the comforter inside the duvet all by myself.

Brandon: That's hard.

Kevin: It was really hard and I'm a little bit-

Brandon: Was it even? Or was it-

Kevin: it was even man tied in every corner, buttoned up, shook it out to make it all like, it's a, it's embarrassing how many YouTube videos we watched, I watched to make this happen. But it

is, it is a proud moment. Yeah. I slept a little better last night. No. And I put the comforter in the duvet.

Dan: So, there's probably a lot of skills you have that, you know, we could access with all that. I mean, I, you know.

Kevin: Exactly.

Dan: We start making things for missionaries. You should be at the front of the line. I be the top the line putting Kevin's craft hours craft. I'm no stranger to a hot glue gun.

Kevin: You know what I mean? I'm no stranger.

Brandon: Dan, I have um, I have a hidden talent. I can make balloon animals.

Dan: You can?

Kevin: (laughs) Yes.

Dan: Why does that not surprise me, Brandon? Probably. I used to work in like a carnival. That was at your first job.

Brandon: I did children's birthday parties. It wasn't my first job, but I would dress up-

Kevin: Did you sing and everything?

Brandon: I- I didn't play instrument. He- Kevin's making a guitar p, I- I went and I would. Like Disney characters and I would dress up like as Peter Pan or Prince Charming, or Sheriff Woody and I would go to birthday parties.

Kevin: Give me your best sheriff Woody right now. Let me hear it.

Brandon: I, I don't have a, I don't-

Dan: Reach for the sky. There's a snake in my boot.

Brandon: Uh, but there you had to learn how, so half of it was a show. 30 minutes. And then 30 minutes was like balloon animals slinging

Kevin: balloons. What's the hardest balloon

Brandon: animal? Um, a horse because you have to, you have to make the mini, I can't even take you serious. Right. Seriously.

It's like a braid. Like some kids want like a bicycle or something, but you know, like a realistic thing that you're not gonna say no to. Yeah. Yeah.

Kevin: I've just been slinging swords all day long. Like, just get 'em like the Right, it's just got like the one loop. I could do that. So the insider wiener,

Dan: dogs birthday, things

Brandon: like, that'd be a little easier.

The insider birthday knowledge is, you don't. Things that, that the little boys will fight with because Makes sense. It really does cause problems at the parties. Like that Makes sense. They end up getting

Kevin: angry at each other. Is that like the, uh, balloon making animals' code of conduct? It's

Brandon: just, and you just learn it after a while.

You also learn that if you run outta a certain color, you never ask what color

Kevin: the kids want, because they always want that color. And was this your first job?

Brandon: Uh, it wasn't, no. I wish it was. My first job was Ace Har couple years ago. , I still do it

Kevin: on the side. Birthdays on the weekend. That's awesome. My Peter Pan for

I thought he was supposed to never get older and

Dan: never

Kevin: Oh. So Dan, what was your first job? I know the steelworker wasn't your

Dan: first job. My very first job. Was delivering newspapers. I had paper route. Oh, nice. You back in the, the day I'd get home from school. Yeah. And I have my stack of the Fullerton News Tribune. Yeah. And I'd take 'em and I'd ride my little stingray bike and I'd deliver my newspapers.

Kevin: I had a friend who had that and I'd I'd, every once in a while I'd go with them. We'd, but we were in the, we were in a minivan and we'd throw 'em out the the side. So your mom drove you? Yeah. Exactly. My mom never tried. I mean, I wasn't even getting paid. I was just, I was working for my

Dan: friend, apparently.

Like, this is so fun.

Kevin: That's awesome. Paper route. Sounds like that would be a

Dan: fun gig. Yeah. You know, the worst part of a paper route is they require you to go out.

for. That's why you never had a

Kevin: Exactly.

Brandon: Back to the dogs. Everything comes back

Kevin: to the dog for

Dan: back. Yeah. This is making a lot of sense. It's all, I mean, I saw like you're like the kindest guy in the world, but you talk about dogs, your eyeballs turn red.

Kevin: uh, Winston, if you're listening, I'm sorry.

Brandon: Oh gosh. So Dan, speaking of your papers being. When you were talking yesterday, boom. About consider yourself sent. Yes.

Kevin: Oh, wow. That is grade A caliber segue right there, man. This is the best of the business, right?

Dan: I'm among the elites in this room.

Brandon: So, so I have a question for you. So what would you say to someone that, you know, here's your sermon. You're saying, Hey, you gotta go replicate Jesus' ministry. You, you are sent. Yeah. Yeah. What would you say to someone? that says, I don't think I can do that. That's not me. Yeah, I'm not ready. Um, I still have a lot to learn, that kind

Kevin: of thing.

Dan: You know, one of the guys on our staff, I was talking to him and, uh, he was looking for some volunteers and he wanted to come to one of our ministries and, uh, just talk about his, and I said, absolutely. And I said, but I just want you to know in advance that, uh, a lot of. Guys are probably gonna say, I'm so inadequate.

I can't, I can't do this. You know? And then his response was awesome. He said, that's exactly the kind of guy I want, because I want somebody that knows it's gonna be up to God to do it. I'm a, I'm, I'm gonna just humbly just open myself up to it to do it. I thought that was just, I mean, it's like just one of our young guys, this is, this is really wise.

Mm-hmm. . So I would just say my answer to that is that it, it's, it's a process like we. We're, we're, you know, we're set apart and sanctified. We're, but yet we're being sanctified and we will be sanctified. And so it's this notion that we're. We're disciples, right? Mm-hmm. , we're, we're always, we're followers, we're apprentices.

But there's, there's, there's learning and doing and learning and doing and learning and doing. It's just, it's just back and forth and coming as a, I mean, apprentice. The, I think the implication is you come into it knowing nothing, you know, you're a blank, you're a blank. Canvas. Yeah. And then you just begin painting and you fall on your face and you get back up and you, your mentor, uh, your leader, your, your guide is there to pick you back up again.

Yeah. And I just think it's, I, I, I think that's open hands. God wants us to have open hands. We're not holding on and, and we can serve him. And I think we've all seen that over and over again where somebody was just willing and God used them and then they grew and grew and just, Obviously it was God.

Kevin: Yeah, yeah.

You used that. This phrase I think is, um, you move from learner to labor. Yeah. And I really like that. And I think, you know, even what you're describing is there's something in the laboring that's also a learning. You know what I mean? And like absolutely. We learn best by doing. And, and so I think even, even the way you kind of pose the question brand and divorces the idea that.

Like when we are sent, that's also part of our discipleship. It's part of our apprenticeship. It's not that those are too, you don't arrive and then go do that thing. I would say there's probably, you know, there is a level of saying yes to Jesus and then you are sent, right? Like you have to have that moment.

Um, but they are interrelated and, and so I like that. It's the constant learning and, and doing learning and doing that, that kind of cycle. If you. Hm.

Brandon: Yeah. So Jesus in this passages is handing out his authority Yeah. To, to the 12. Mm-hmm. . Uh, have you guys ever, have you guys ever handed out authority before?

I'm just trying to imagine what that must have been like for Jesus. Been like, okay, I'm gonna give you a little piece of this now and let you go practice it. Uh, and the reason I ask you that is cuz I just took Olivia, she's about to get her. And I just let her drive a little bit, just so you know, little like streets.

I probably should have gone to a big parking lot, but I went in our little loop that we live on. Yeah. Yeah. And it was terrifying . And she did a good job. I'm not saying she wasn't a good driver, but like the, just the idea of handing out, like, eventually you're gonna have this car.

Kevin: How many, how many phantom brake pedals did you stomp on in the middle of this?

Oh.

Dan: Oh yeah. What was your plan if you had to slam on the brakes? Did you have your leg leaning

Brandon: over? I didn't think through that. I, I, I tried to make like a big, uh, deal about always be ready for a break, , like, just be ready to break. Always be ready to stop. Yeah. Because you know, like when she first sat, sat down, she was using, You know, like her foot, right foot on gas and her left foot on the bri.

I'm like, don't do that. Yeah.

Kevin: That's not it. That's not it. Yeah. No, it's interesting though that you talk about that idea of handing over authority. Cuz you see, I mean this is, this is the story of scripture. I mean, you see this traced all the way to Genesis one, you know, or Genesis one and two, when God is creating.

Uh, you know, when it says that they were, that man and woman were created in his image, um, that's, that's royal language in which authority is being passed on. Like, the idea is not, not just that we reflect similar characteristics of God in humanity, but it's also that we are to image Christ or God to the world.

Mm-hmm. were to rule in the same way that Jesus would. And so from the beginning of the story, God in his sovereignty is giving us a level. Authority and power to then do, now again, the story of the scriptures is how well we abuse that and screw that up and make a mess of life. Um, but it is that, like, so when, when you say like, I wonder what that was like for Jesus.

I think we see that kind of over and over through the scriptures where it's God saying he's inviting us to rule with a level of authority and autonomy and, and it's almost like, I don't know, like it'd be. It, it's that I, I sense of it almost as like a, a brokenheartedness of how we just keep abusing that power and that authority.

Um, and it's like a, a brokenness in, in the sense of like a parent who's just broken over a child making the wrong choice over and over again. But yet there's always a tenderness to invite back and help correct. And shape and form. And, and I just wonder if some of that's going. Um, so I don't know. In this text it'd be interesting.

I don't know, Dan, you saw it, but it, I wonder if when, you know, when they get back and they're sharing these stories, I wonder if Jesus is like, there's a proud moment there where he's like, yeah, yeah, they're doing it. They're like, here's a moment where they seem to actually. At least brush up against getting it, you know?

Well they

Dan: were exercising faith, right? Yeah. And that pleases God. We know that I was, uh, when I was studying that passage that Exia, which is translated authority, but within that is the power. Mm-hmm. , you know, that he was delegating. Power. It was through, it was his power going out to them. I, yeah, I, I didn't, I I know what I see what you're saying.

Like in Genesis, that dominion, you know, given that dominion to rule Yeah. And that's a, there's an sense of autonomy with that. Mm-hmm. , you know, and, and I'm thinking of this passage I'm thinking, . Yeah. I guess there is autonomy, but in reality it's, it's, it's God's

Kevin: power through them. Yes. Yeah. That's a to make it it

Dan: work.

I love that. Yeah. So there is, there's, there's an element of autonomy he's dealt when you delegate and that's what he did. Mm-hmm. , you're giving some autonomy there, but still that, that, that, that ought really comfort us, that it isn't up to us. Yeah. You know, we're just supposed to one step at a time. Yeah.

Exercise, faith. Yeah. Yeah. And. Let him work. We've used that phrase, you know, where is God working? Let's get on board with that. Yeah. I mean, I think that's, we've talked about that in our vision discussions too, how important it is. Henry Blackaby little, oh yeah, remember that? Yeah. That whole workbook. Wow.

It's work. Did you do that in your church,

Kevin: Henry?

Brandon: I, I think, uh, it's like in my brain from

Kevin: when I was going back to that, my parents owning a Christian bookstore, we sold those things like crazy when came outta that. Oh yeah, what is it? That was huge hearing. God isn't

Dan: hearing God. N Yeah. What is it?

Kevin: Black.

It's not desiring

Dan: God. It's, it's not knowing God. Uh, I, I thought it was

Kevin: the, we sold so many, finding the will. Experiencing God. Experiencing God. Experiencing God, experiencing God.

Dan: I even had the Henry Blacky experiencing God's study Bible. Nice, nice. That's a thrill. Obviously I opened it a lot. I

Kevin: you couldn't remember,

Brandon: but yeah, on that, on that thing, you know there what you're talking about, Dan.

There is a high calling to when Jesus hands authority to us. Like there is something that he gives us. But like you said, it's not, it's not in our own power. And I feel like back to the first question of, you know, people saying, am I ready or I don't think I, I don't think I want to do this. When you tell someone, just the average person maybe that comes to church or whatever, Hey, I want your, your job is to replicate Jesus's ministry.

I feel like they're imagining doing it with their own power and strength. Yeah. And when you try to imagine going out, replicating Jesus's ministry with the tools that you have as a human being. Right, right. That's very intimidating. Very

Kevin: intimidating.

Dan: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. We, we should never even think that way cuz on the, on the other side, the, the flip side of that is then we'll take credit for anything that's happening.

It's because of us. . And that is not at all the way he lines it up, the way he explains, you know, here's what you take, here's what you're to do. To me, that's all a reference to, uh, it's, it's him, you know, we're dependent mm-hmm. and he's required. So it never puts us in a position to, to take credit for anything.

I mean, I mean, and I, I, I mean, I, I comp, I compliment you on. Yeah, I compliment you on your sermon. I don't feel like you do that. Oh, . Okay. Well, I'll try to do that more, but really what I'm doing is I'm, I'm praising God. You know that he's using you to, you know, pick the right songs. . Yeah. Yeah. But yeah, there's

Kevin: something to that and practice and

But there is something to like, not dismiss. our involvement, you know what I mean? In that, in that sense. And that's the, I think it's just the tension to manage, right? Where, where, of course, if at any point it's about you, you've missed the plot, but at the same time, like me stepping into my gifting and allowing that to flourish is part of mm-hmm.

the work God has given me and given each of us, right. Whatever that is. So it is, it's attention to manage, but there's something in that, that reflecting that back to God. And, and yet always kind of stepping into your calling confidently, not arrogantly, you know, and like there's some balance there. Yeah, yeah,

Dan: yeah.

Cuz you definitely are obeying and

Kevin: exercising faith, stewarding what God's given you. Stewarding the gifts god's given you. Yeah. Stepping into that sort of vocation, like, you know. Yeah. But you only

Dan: do that because of his grace. Yeah, of course. Of course. That's, sorry, that's a little insight back and forth.

Brandon: Um, uh, do you guys know how long the 12 had been hanging with Jesus at this point? I think

Dan: about, I think about a year. Really? Okay. Hmm. Yeah. Even maybe

Kevin: even. ,

Brandon: because I, I'm watching this half scene go down. I'm just, you know, imagine six months to a year they've been on this whirlwind with Jesus, right? Like trying to, trying to just

figure out what he's about and what he's doing and decode his, you know, parables, all that kind of stuff.

And then Jesus starts this, this journey of sending them out. He's like, all right, you guys ready to try? Yeah. And I love how, I love how practical some of this is, like some of his lists, like, you know, like, do it with somebody. Make sure you're going out with somebody. So it's like, make sure you wear shoes,

Kevin: Bring your sandals. I would've forgot. Yeah. It's like, oh man. Right.

Brandon: This is really good. Maybe bring these sandals, don't bring the extra shirt. Right. I trust, so, I mean, I know that there's, there's profound things to that, but it's, it's just like, strangely really practical. But you boiled down a lot of. Um, best practices into, I think, some pretty cool things to consider.

Maybe one of the, one of the, um, deeper ones that kind of, I, I like thinking about this. Allow yourself into situations where you're dependent on God. How, how do you do that? How does one put yourself in that situation where you have to? Do you, does that mean like, I should run my gas. Super, super low, and then try to drive over the grapevine and just see what happens.

Dan: See what? Yeah. Or just, you know, go up on top of a temple and throw yourself off. Jump right off. Yeah.

So he gave you a brain? Yeah. Yeah. Um, no, I, I, I think it's, I, I, I, personally, my view is, Be willing to accept, uh, invitations to do ministry. Are, uh, that are scary, challenging, um, something you maybe wouldn't imagine, feel inadequate for? I, I think, I think that's stepping out and don't we always hear that when, when, in our own experiences, if we've gone on a missions trip and you know, well, you know, I've never been to Cameroon.

I'm not sure what to expect there and. And, uh, I, I'm just gonna trust God every day. And, you know, they're not giving me a schedule of what exactly I'm supposed to do. I'd really like a schedule. I'd really like to know, no, we're just gonna go. And, and you know, that's a, that for me, that's a very uncomfortable setting where I'm just completely.

Trusting God that he's gonna lead me and use me that day, and I'm here for a reason and I'm not sure exactly what it is. Yeah. But I just wanna serve God and I have the opportunity and I receive the invitation to do it. And, uh, here I am.

Brandon: Mm-hmm. . Mm-hmm. . Kevin, I'm wondering if you. This is me leading the witness a little bit here, , and we can always edit this out, but I'm wondering if you, if there's, if there's a piece of this that you resonate with, even as your journey that you're on right now.

Yeah,

Kevin: yeah, yeah. That was the example I was thinking of, but if you were gonna ask that, like no doubt, like there was there, I mean there's, there's a very real sense when I'd said yes to this

role and even, even thinking through being installed as an elder just a couple weeks ago, that was like, God, I don't know how to do this.

a hundred percent. Like I, I got a great team around me. I got a church. I believe in a body who's been so supportive, wife, who's a thousand percent with me, all that there. But there was still at the end of the day, like, I don't know how to do all this. And I don't. And, and in some ways there's, there's a beauty to that there.

It. Because it it does, it does a couple things. It, it certainly drives me to prayer. It drives me into prayer in a way that, that I hold things a lot looser than I had before. And then it drives me to the body of Christ where I, I look at even you guys in this room thinking, man, there's, there's no way we could do this without you guys, or I just, the, the team in general we have here is like, man, there's no way.

Like, and so I have to, Learn to depend on God and the resources God placed around me. Um, so I definitely, yeah, I mean that's, that's huge and was a large part of my journey and what's been so good, um, is you know, a year plus in now, God's been so good and like seen so many of those ways where so many situations where it's like, I'd have never thought of how to handle that, but, but either, you know, God, God used somebody around me or God just stepped up or any of that, like no doubt that that's become a, um, something I wasn't always good at.

I like control and I've had to learn how to loosen control in a lot of ways. So. Yeah.

Brandon: And for what it's worth, I that's, I see that on you. Even, even when we were, and we had had conversations, Kevin, where you talked about dealing with. Maybe some, some of the ambitious side of you, you know, when you were younger, maybe earlier starting out ministry and having God sort of have to sort of reign in.

Yeah, yeah. Like yeah, reign that, reign that I'm ego, I'm gonna build my kingdom kind of thing. Yeah. And, and when I got here at cpc, I had a lot of that. I just wanted to do something big, you know? Yeah. And I just remember having conversations with Kevin. About all these big things I want to do, and Kevin would have this like, well,

Kevin: you know, I just wanna sit in silence for 18 minutes at church

Kevin,

Brandon: why don't you care about this? You're like, we do care, care. Well even think about building our kingdom. We're,

Kevin: well think even about even this text, right? Like you see a passing line about, you know, what is in verse. They went out, preached and that many people should repent. They drove out demons, anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

And it's like all we get, right? Like that's a massive, like they're driving out demons and healing people and, and Mark gives 'em one line. You know what I mean? There's a sense in which we

want to do the big, but sometimes we misplace what exactly the quote big is. Like we need a redefinition of the big.

Um, and it drives me back to an earlier teaching. You know, the kingdom of God's like a mustard. It's small, it's God working, it's God doing these things like mm-hmm. , even as Mark is, is authoring this, the point of the text was yes, they were sent and obedient and that's really what's shining a little less what they actually did, but rather their obedience to, to Jesus and stepping into that in faith.

That's what's shining. Um, and so I don't know. I think there's a sense we, we, we mistake and I think it's because we are marinating and saturated in a world that just says more and bigger is better. That what, you know, God's often just calling us to the, the small faithful tasks, do the next right thing, you know, and that God uses that, you know.

Dan: this is so good for, for me to hear you guys talking like this because I think back when I was in my late thirties and it was all about, you know, we gotta slay the dragon, you know? Mm-hmm. , and we have these things that we need to accomplish before we reach a certain age. And, and what you're expressing here is.

Most guys, if they're, if they're, if they're following, the Lord will realize. But you're realizing it at a, at a young age. Mm. And. You may not see the, the big, the bigness of, of things you, you, you want to do right now, but this is so big in God's eyes what you're doing and the fact that you're, you're realizing this and you can, you can discuss this and you, you've, you have discussed this, uh, is as a, as an older guy in the church.

Mm. A really healthy thing. Yeah. For, for me to hear. That's cool. Uh, that, that, uh, this has been a battle. You've, you've waged and, and you're, you're, you're getting it, you're getting, you're understanding what a win is. I'm sure we will

Brandon: continue to wage that battle

Kevin: for sure. And keep doing it. And just one point of clarity too, Brandon's late thirties.

I'm still mid thirties. Okay. I'm holding mid thirties. Yeah. Yeah. ,

Brandon: you know, I heard Francis Chan say one time and it, it. It irked me, you know? He said, I, I have the talent to build a church without the power of the Holy Spirit. Mm oh. And he goes, I, and I have the know-how, I know how to find the right music guy, you know, secure building.

And he said, I could, I could build that church, but it would be built on, on sinking sand. And I think there, there is this, there is this. Tension or this tendency for us to want to take over with our own ambition. What's interesting about the the driving out Demonn thing, Is there any, like, you can probably justify a lot of different things that you do in your own strength.

Like, oh, I'm making headway here. You know, I'm doing a lot of stuff. , you can't is

Kevin: Yeah.

Brandon: And drive outta demon. I mean, it's like terrifying. You're like, this is, there's nothing I have here. Yeah, yeah,

Kevin: yeah. Can

Dan: try that. It, it reminds me of the foundation in which the church is built. Yeah. You know, that's where the power is.

Mm-hmm. , I love that he said it's sinking sand. It's just gonna cave in on itself. Yeah. Yeah. And he knows it. Yeah.

Kevin: Yeah. Yeah. It's good. Yeah.

Brandon: So the other thing I, I was hoping you guys could maybe unpack a little bit is the, the hospitality piece. Um, you said this, this should really be, become kind of the centerpiece of the gospel ministry.

Talk a little bit more, more about that .

Kevin: Yeah.

Dan: Well, it's in the rule of life. Mm-hmm. , you know, that, uh, as we start looking at what Jesus is doing in the community, And how he wants to use us and that participation with him. Uh, we, we've arrived at hospitality being huge. Yeah. In terms of building authentic relationships with unbelievers.

And you know, it, isn't it, it isn't so much. I think I, I, I did, I referred to, in the first sermon, first message, anyway, I referred to the, uh, the door to door and the, the campus ministry going up to people. Mm-hmm. . And that was, , that's what we did back in the 1980s. You know, that's, that, that was, that's what was taught in terms of evangelism.

And our world has changed a lot. Mm-hmm. and there's not this general acceptance of, you know, uh, Judeo-Christian values. Yeah, yeah. Uh, so, and certainly not of the, the Bible, you know, as, as the word of. So it's, it wasn't thus sayeth the Lord. Yeah. Communication. So, so this is about building relationships and about, uh, learning all of us together, learning how we can encourage each other and equip each other to initiate spiritual conversations, but to do it in a way of just around food.

Mm-hmm. , I was listening to something saying how, how. Deals are made in, in, in the world that food is very intentional because there's a bonding that comes around food. So, yeah. Anyway. Yeah. But there's just, there's just something about having people, inviting people into your world, feeding them, caring for them.

Yeah. And just, just having, using that as, as the front door. Yeah. For, uh, ministry outside the walls of the church in our peninsula culture cuz there's a lot of loneliness. And neighbors don't, generally if they, if they're trans, if it's transient neighborhood, they don't really Yeah. Know each other. And

Kevin: even think about, I mean we, you know, we celebrate a communion on Sunday and I've just, I think I say it every time I lead communion, but I'm just fascinated that, that Jesus gave us this practice of communion.

And it's a meal. Like there's something to that. And I think, you know, it's, it's the, in the meal, particularly in communion, we're quite literally like acting out this new community of believers that, that God is instituting in the kingdom of God, which is where, like even in Corinthians, you know, that classic text that I read every time I lead communion, the words of institution are in there.

and Paul is so angry at the Corinthian church, um, because they're abusing this meal. And so when, when he prays like you must examine yourself or else you're eating and drinking God's wrath on you, he's saying because you're desecrating the meal. Cuz they had, what was happening in Corinth, in Corinth was the rich we're able to get there early.

And so they're celebrating with all this lavish drink and food on this communion meal, this representation of church unity across all these differe. And, and then the poor were showing up late cuz they're working the whole time and they didn't have anything to eat. And, and so Paul is just furious with the church.

He says that when you are doing that, you're mirroring the same way the culture around you is eating. Like you're separating the rich from the poor. There's this lack of unity, and he is like, you're, you're desecrating the very meal that's supposed to be emblematic of the, this new community you're creating.

And, and so when we then practice hospitality, we're practicing the same sort of welcome. That we've experienced the God's table, right? That he's created through his death, through his resurrection, that's that unifying meal. And so, just like you said, Dan, it's like the, the table is, I think this, um, this practice where we invite people to enter into that community for the purpose of them.

Almost tasting and seeing this new way to live. Right? And like, I dunno, I get really excited about this. Cause I think as a, as our world grows more and more hostile, uh, more and more divided, like what would it look like for us to embody a sort of welcome across those differences where we say, gosh, come to the table and let me then tell you.

We can hold communion with one another. Well, it's because of what Jesus has done. You know, and you see that first enacted at the communion table where we, you know, on Sunday, you look at that sanctuary, there's people from all different walks of life, all different positions and social status and all these different things.

And yet that meal, those, those, those simple elements transcend those difference. And, and in, in that, The on looking world sees that's a radically new community of followers of Jesus. Like that's something that this world can't offer. And so then we go do that through hospitality by inviting our neighbors into our house and just cooking a meal, right?

And praying about Holy Spirit, open up conversation and this or that. But, but it's in an in acting of the kingdom of God. As we welcome people into that meal in the same way Jesus invites us to his table. Um, and I think and that's really what, and what you were touching on, which I thought was such a good section in that sermon, was that's what the early church did that flipped Rome upside down.

Yep. Was their welcome of the other around the table. I mean, it just flipped the Roman Empire upside down

Brandon: the hospitality. Yeah. I, I'm watching most of people, most people that are listening now probably know that my. , um, place caught on fire last Sunday in the middle of my dad's sermon. They're all at church, so no one got hurt.

Someone came in, said, pastor, your house is on fire. And you just see them, geez, all go out and leave. And, um, you know, but watching now what has been happening, um, they, my, my sister had had just moved up. with her boyfriend to, to stay with my parents for, while they kind of, you know, reset and figure out what they're gonna do next.

And my, my, her, her boyfriend is not really a, um, he's not a Jesus guy, not not a Christ follower. And he had been heavily affected by what you hear in pop culture. Christians and evangelicals and, and so I would say he probably went up there knowing that my family's Christian family being at skeptical at best.

Um, and, and here's the hard part of this, um, the. his, and no one, no one blames him, but it was his room where the fire started because some extension cord happened. So he was really, really carrying the weight of, of this whole fire on his shoulders and feeling just super, super, you know, like just devastated.

Yeah. And watching the community. Rally. I mean, so many of the people that listened to this podcast rallied and went on the GoFundMe and, and donated to my parents. I haven't even met my parents. Yeah, it's incredible. And and he's watching this Christian community Yeah, yeah. Light up. Yeah. People from literally all over the country.

I mean people from Iowa and, um, he, because the fire started where he. It was all of his stuff. He was the only one in the family that has nothing now. Wow. And so he just went down with, with some of that and they were able to help him buy some new clothes. That's incredible. And he's just, he's like, I don't understand why.

Why he's never seen anything like it. Yeah. It's beautiful. And he's watching the church come alive and I'm like, this is what the world needs to see. Like you said, this is what flipped Rome

upside down. Yeah. Yeah. We don't have categor. Yeah. For when, for the hospitality that the church Yeah. Um, has Yeah.

Yeah. When the church becomes the church, yeah. It's so much more than a Sunday sermon. It just,

Dan: it just redefines what a big thing in ministry is and we start thinking about what, what's the big thing? This is the big thing. Yeah. What's happening there. Yeah. And another thing I like about this, Kevin, is, is hospitality, is, is, uh, you know, you've kind of engineered this is.

I think, I think most of us, I think I could confidently say that most of us. Could get excited about This isn't a terrifying thing. Yeah. To, to invite anybody. Throw a dinner into your home. Mm-hmm. , throw a dinner party. Maybe it's just two people, maybe it's six people. Whatever, you know, whatever you, you, it's your place, you're, you're suited for, but, To, to have them at your table is, is I think, something that we can just naturally do.

And there used to be a term, you know, ask, you know, uh, natural evangelism or something like that, something anyway, but it was just like, okay, who are you and what can you do? You know, you don't all have to be. Do it in the way, you know, Billy Graham does it. Yeah. And I, I just think this is something that would, would really work and, and mm-hmm.

you know, we're all foodies here in the bay anyway, so it's kinda like something we, we care, something we care about. Well, and we were,

Kevin: I mean, I remember when we, we did a series on hospitality when we were doing young adults years ago, and one of the things I challenged the young adults with was, you know, most of us eat three, three meals a day, seven days a week.

That's 21 meals. Like, just, just give up. You know what I mean? Just give up one to invite a coworker, a neighbor, whoever it is, around the table, and, and do it with that sort of intentionality and like, it's, it's a simple ask, right? And I think we're, we're used to that. And it's an environment, you know, most, most people have probably had people over to their house at some point.

Like they know how to, how to do that. And so it is a simple, a simple way to then just be attentive to the holy spirit of that, right? As you're going about your kind of normal, natural kind of thing. It's good. So

Brandon: what do you, what, so you, you go into this part and it's part of the scripture verse, but you go into this whole thing about Herod.

Kevin: Yeah. That's

Dan: because Kevin set up the preaching schedule. .

Kevin: I would talk about the

Brandon: beheadings and

Dan: Yeah,

Brandon: no. So like there is, it was fascinating to hear. Cause I mean he, like, he imprisoned and then sort of drunkenly made this promise to, to kill John the Baptist. He had, uh, a lot of regret. He didn't necessarily, you didn't think he was very repentant in the, in the, no.

So where does this all fit? We weave it in. Weave it in for .

Dan: Yeah. Well, I, yeah, I mean, I, again, you know, looking at that passage and, and seeing how. , it's laid out how the editors mark and then the editors put it together. Uh, you know, to me it, it, it was demonstrating, you know, this, this could be, you know, you gotta understand the reality of being sent if you consider yourself sent.

Understand. It's gonna require sacrifice. Mm-hmm. and, and, and even potentially, you know, the ultimate sacrifice of your life. And John John's a yeah, John's that example. He never backed down from his calling and he was, he was a, you know, a hundred percent follower of Jesus and, and obeying him in terms of what he did.

Yeah. So I think it just, it was, it's such a dramatic, you know, uh, example of the world's response. To the gospel and uh, that not, not everyone will repent. Yeah.

Kevin: There's also a good contrast of the use of power, right? Where you see Jesus sending out with the authority and the power, and what you see there is the disciples.

Bringing about healing and restoration in the kingdom of God. And then you see this man of great worldly power, Herod, who's exercising it for all sorts of things, counter to the kingdom of God. And you'll see it again in the text that we're preaching this Sunday in the feeding of the 5,000, where Jesus is exercising a sort of authority over a meal.

A similar thing that that Herod was in some ways, and yet they're radically. Right. They're just radically different expressions of, of power and authority. And, and Mark is weaving this kind of throughout the text, um, this, this counter narrative. Right? Again, the Kingdom of God functions different to Herod's kingdom.

And, and you see that sort of, I mean, as you, you brought out really well, I mean, Herod was like, He was crazy. Like, he was just absolutely crazy and he was anxious, he was nervous, he was narcissistic and like, and you see that as this sort of, this is the different kingdom. We don't have to live in that like the kingdom of God is all together different.

It's really good, Kevin. You know, and, and, and so you'll see that kind of play out, um, as well in that reaction. And so, like I said, I think you're spot on. Like there is a reaction to that particularly cuz when you challenge Herod as John, um, as John did. You know, people don't like that , you know what I mean?

And, and I think this is maybe a more extreme example for sure, but when, when you begin to, to bump up against those sorts of like, exercises of power and that power structure, um, with a counter power, you get John, you get Jesus on the cross, you get the disciples mar like people don't like that. You know, because you're disrupting those power structures.

Dan: It's interesting cause I was studying that passage too, how. And we ended up in communion, which mm-hmm. . Yeah. To me it just, we just slid right into it because Jesus experienced that same thing, you know, that rejection that eventually led to his death. Yeah. But then that in that initiated the kingdom, you know,

Kevin: being fully expanded.

Yeah. Which is like, that is, The highest expression of the power of the kingdom of God is Jesus on the cross. It's that cruciform, um, example of it's the ethic that we then espouse. Like the way in which we go about exerting our power and authority is the example of the cross, not the example of Herod. Um, it's the example of the cross, which is when you get even and when you get into the book of Revelation.

Um, you know, it's a whole different podcast for another day, but when you see that, what am I gonna preach on that love to, we'll need like three years, but it'll be excellent. Uh, but what, what you see there, even when you see, um, these, these, these images of Jesus power, it all comes back. Like even when Jesus appears in the white robe and it's saturated in.

That's because his power is the crucified Jesus. When you see these moments in Revelation where it's like they overcome by the blood of the lamb, that's not a power over coerciveness. It's that it's the sacrifices through death comes life, and it's this complete flip of the way that we operate and understand power, and that's that radical nature of the kingdom of God where it makes no sense to the.

But yet that's the new thing. That's the good news. That's the gospel, right. Is there's a different way. Violence doesn't always win, right. But there's actually a, a different manner that where to be first is last, right? And to be last is first. And it's, it's just this beautiful reversal of what we kind of know of the world.

Brandon: So the, the, the 12 now called the apostles come back from their Jesus practice, you know, the Jesus Dojo. As Mark Kadre would call it, and they come back together and, and they start sharing stories and you, you kind of commented how cool it would be to be at that. I I would, I feel the exact same way. Yeah.

I just want to hear like when they're trying this stuff out, you know? Wow. Oh man. There's just the crazy stories that they must have had. Yeah. And I think you said earlier, maybe you said it earlier in the podcast, that Jesus maybe was, was proud, like, oh look. They're trying it. Yeah. But it got me thinking, you know, that idea of, of these, these people going out and then coming back sort of to home base and sharing what God has been doing.

That's, that's the church, right? Mm-hmm. , that's the church. Like, that's, that's one, that's one big reason why we should come together is to be able to straight. How, how much, how cool would that be? If, so, if you see God work, with your partner cuz you're trying to practice Jesus stuff and you come back to everyone else.

You want to tell that story. And, uh, that's what we try to do at, at here, at, at this church. We want to tell those stories of, of what God is doing and encourage each other and, and worship in response to those stories. Amen. Yeah. Mm-hmm. , right? So, I don't know. You guys have comments on that, but

Dan: Well,

Kevin: I looked to Dan's.

Dan: I, I mean, again, I think, I think it goes back to our, our, uh, being attentive to what God is doing around us. Yeah. And, and then being able to, to talk about it and, and share it. I mean, you know, we've, we've done it like prayer, prayer meetings. I, I've found, Boy, that's wonderful to come back and, and tell stories.

Mm-hmm. . Uh, but I, I, I think that's a, a challenge for us. I mean, I heard a, a story on Sunday from somebody that, you know, just what a praise because a particular, uh, uh, medical condition has been, you know, they got a great, great test result, you know, and pray. We were praising God before the, before the first service started.

Yeah. And. . You know, I, I want, I don't know how we do it. I, I really haven't, you know, figured out how we'll do that. But I, I mean, that's such an encouragement to other people. You know, as you said, it, it's, it's wonderful to be able to share it. And then for others who need encouragement to hear that, that are going through struggles, to just say, you know, wait, no, God's still working.

He's still here. Mm-hmm. and, uh, uh, he's working powerfully. Yeah. Yeah. And, and we're

Kevin: part of that. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, it reminds me of like that, that the church gathering is the space to come and, and to, to be filled up, to be, um, charged up to connect with one another to all those kind of things we talk about.

But then it's about that. It's about that sending out. Right. And, and if you don't, as you were even saying, Dan, again, the whole thing. You're, you're ready to be sent. Like, that's the, we, we flip it. We think the gathering is the main thing, but it's not. It augments the going, the sending, the doing. Um, the church is like the pit stop where we come back to recharge, remember, you know, kind of reenter on what we're all about.

And then go back out and, and go be the church out there and go do that, that sort of stuff. Help the, the family whose house burnt down and help heal the sick and, you know, pray for those at, at the end of life and encourage one, like that's the, that's the church. Yeah. And then we happen to gather on Sundays to share those stories and encourage Yeah.

But the church is in the going,

Dan: you know, I would never, uh, ever wanna limit what God can do in terms of casting out demons in today's age and, and. People in the body of Christ to do that or, or healing and anointing with oil and praying and seeing healing. Yeah. I would never wanna limit that. We, we always need to be open to that and, and be engaged in that.

Uh, but it, it does describe on a, on a, maybe a broader scale, this notion of compassion and care for the least among us, those that are suffering. Yeah. And that's, that's significant. Yeah. You know that, that's when we go out of the walls. Now, we had talked. Before, I think we were on the recording, we talked about H Sings churches and songs, and I remember we might have

Kevin: record, maybe that's a little, your singing could be a little extra bonus episode

Dan: Yeah. Uh, but we had, I, I was in a church once where we did H Sings and Yeah, we had a little sign on the back of the church when you, when you left it. Yeah. You know, and maybe. A lot of older churches did, but when we walked out, it said, you're about to enter your mission field. Yeah. You know, as you walk out of the church on Sunday.

And it

Kevin: just like slapping the sign on the way at the locker room, you know? Exactly,

Dan: exactly. It made me think of that. Cause I mean, there's, it's, it's a little corny, I guess, but, but it's, uh, there's something to it, you know, I mean, there's something about that to, to understand as we go out, we're going out to do ministry.

Yeah. Because. We have been sentenced. You know, consider yourself. That's what we should put. Hey, can we do that on our church

Kevin: as consider yourself sent? It's a good phrase. I love that. So good.

Brandon: And as you listen to this and we close this podcast, consider yourself.

Kevin: Sent.