

LET'S GO

LOVE · LISTEN · LEAD

LESSON 2 - LOVE

A CHANGING CULTURE

- 1.) DISTRUST OF INSTITUTIONS
- 2.) INCREASED MOBILITY / TRANSIENCY
- 3.) INCREASED ACCESS TO ANSWERS / EXPERTS
- 4.) CONSUMER MENTALITY
- 5.) MORAL RELATIVISM

} Need to engage culture where they are!
We need to seek the lost because they are not seeking us, and they are right out our front door!

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUR LORD

Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- 1.) What is the specific comfort of having Jesus....

...at your back? (*all authority in heaven and earth has been given to him*)

...at your side? (*he is always with us*)

...go in front of you? (*he is doing the mission work through his means of grace*)

TRANSITION: Love that is Present and Persistent (video)

BE PRESENT

Luke 19:1-10 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner.’ ” ⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

1.) Considering Zacchaeus's life, what earthly "reasons" might he have had for not wanting anything to do with Jesus? How do these perhaps mirror those in our own community?

2.) Despite all these "reasons" not to be interested in Jesus, what was still missing from Zacchaeus's life?

3.) Jesus knew how important it was to be present. What concrete steps did he take to make sure Zacchaeus got what he wanted?

The Importance of Proximity (video)

- Propinquity comes from the Latin word for _____. It's also known as the _____ effect.
- Unhurried Time + Proximity + Doing Something = _____
- Conversations + Vulnerability = _____ which are a bridge for naturally sharing Christ.

1.) Take a moment to list all the "communities" of which you are part. A good definition of "community" is anyone you regularly spend time with. Spend time and dig down, you'll be surprised how many people's lives you actually touch.

2.) Brainstorm some simple ideas of ways to be present in the lives of the people around you.

BE PERSISTENT (video)

John 4:1-26 (Jesus talks to the Samaritan Woman)

The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, ² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. ³ When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. ⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” ¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I who speak to you am he.”

- 1.) What reasons might Jesus have had to not be persistent in this relationship?
- 2.) What parts of this woman’s life may have looked “messy”? Who else has “messy” lives?
- 3.) Ultimately Jesus brought something into this messy life. What was it? (v. 25-26)

APPLICATION

- 1.) What are the dangers of thinking that outreach needs to be perfectly planned to carry it out?
- 2.) What is the danger of thinking that outreach can be completely unplanned and unintentional?
- 3.) What is the middle way between these two extremes?

SOME OUTREACH ADVICE (video)

- Be _____
- Be _____
- Be _____

LEARN BY DOING (video)

- 1.) Discuss: The best way to learn how to evangelize is to do it. Share an example of a time you learned as a result of evangelizing someone.