

Communicating the Gospel (Lead Me)

The Gospel of The Kingdom - Week 12 (5-25-22)

1 Corinthians 9:19-27

- I. Sacrifice - Destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else.
 - A. Investment is a more positive term. It changes the focus from the current loss to the future gain.
 - 1. "...so run, that ye may obtain"! vs 24
 - 2. Invest - To make use of for future benefits or advantages.
 - 3. There is still plenty of cost involved, but we are in faith about the outcome.
 - 4. Romans 8:18 - "...the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."
 - a) Don't be so focused on the challenges and sacrifices required, but rather on the joy that is set before us! - Hebrews 12:1-2
 - 5. Sacrifices are not nearly as difficult to make when we are convinced of the good outcome.
 - a) Romans 8:28 - When we are convinced that, "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" then we have the ability to endure all things.
 - B. You can't give what you don't have
 - 1. When we sacrifice/invest our personal time and energy to develop our relationship with God first we can then sow that life that we receive into other people.
 - 2. Matt. 22:37 - 40
 - a) Notice the order. God first, then your neighbor.
 - (1) It's impossible to purely love your neighbor as yourself if you don't first love God. - 1 John 4:7 - "...let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."
 - 3. When we make the main thing the main thing, everything else will line up.
 - a) Real life is designed to only work one direction (God did that on purpose).
 - (1) There is only one true source of life, and when we make that our priority everything/everyone else in our life can receive God's life and flourish.
 - 4. If you keep yourself full of the life of God you can't help but communicate and minister the gospel to other people.
 - C. Called to deeper things
 - 1. Eph. 4:11-16
 - a) There is always growing pains involved in growth, and that is always a necessary sacrifice/investment!
 - b) The more we as individuals grow in our faith, the more it edifies and grows the church, and the church is therefore a stronger influence on the rest of the world
 - (1) John 13:35 - "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

II. Communication

- A. As we learn to communicate with God better, we will in-turn be more able to communicate the gospel with other people.
- B. Learn to listen!
 - 1. Proverbs 18:13, 17:27, James 1:19
 - a) We need to listen in order to hear and understand rather than just waiting our turn to say what we want to say.
 - b) There is an abundance of opinions out there. What a lot of people need is someone that will take the time to really listen, and then offer timely wisdom from the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) Proverbs 25:11 "A word fitly (at the right time) spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."
 - 2. Good communication is very relational, and if we don't take the time to know the other person's perspective then we can never reach them (communicate effectively).
 - a) back to 1 Corin. 9:19 - "...I made myself servant unto all..."
 - 3. We live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
 - a) How well we listen to God determines how well we live.
 - b) How well we can relate and communicate with other people determines how easily we can get other people to receive God's words(life).

III. Confidence/Boldness

- A. Confidence and boldness in our freedom empowers us to be servants to all men. - vs. 19
- B. Vs. 26 - 27
 - 1. We fight with confidence and accuracy through self-control with the prize in mind.
 - 2. 2 Timothy 2:1-10
- C. Hebrews 4:14-16
 - 1. Because of the how well Jesus can relate with our condition, He is our perfect representative before the Father and we can come to Him in full confidence knowing that He has grace and mercy for us in our time of need.
 - a) How often do you need Jesus?
 - 2. The more confident we become in our relationship with God the more confident we will be in communicating the gospel with other people.