

A Summer's Journey: Week 4- Change the World

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you had a conversation with a nonbelieving friend about spiritual matters?
2. Do you know how to start a conversation about the gospel? What tool have you used? Was it effective?

WORD

We are ending our series “A Summer’s Journey with a sermon title CHANGE THE WORLD. As we know, when the Gospel is shared with others and believe in their hearts, the Gospel will change lives and will change our society

Acts 16:31-34 (NIV)

31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

There was an immediate change when they accepted the gospel! Then the jailer was filled with joy, because he had come to believe in the living God—he and his whole household. The Jailer was changed by the gospel , and not

only him but all of his household as well. That wherever Paul goes, and shares the gospel, whoever believes, accepts the gospel of Jesus Christ. People were changed. And what is this type of change that we are talking about here? This type of change is the change from cultural normal, to biblical normal. Change from WORLDview to WORDview. Change from what the world thinks the normal is, our past lives before encountering the gospel and God, to Godly normal. To our new lives after accepting the gospel. From thinking about serving ourselves only, to serving God and God's people. From focusing on instant gratification and temporary pleasures To focusing on lasting joy and peace.

DISCUSSION

Do you believe every Christians should live with the same passion, zeal and resolve as Paul and Silas? Is their “radical Christianity” normal? Why or why not?

WORD

Acts 19:11-20 (NIV)

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. 13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. 17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the

scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.[a] 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Ephesus was so well known for witchcraft, that the people that practiced witchcraft had their own scrolls that had inscribed magical spells and incantations. The city also had an infestation of demons, perhaps drawn by the humans who desired interaction with supernatural power. The demons in turn, attracted these Jewish exorcists to come. And enter Paul in the scene, in the city of Ephesus, it said in verse “11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. Then in verse 14 the sons of Sceva, Jewish exorcists. Attempts to imitate Paul’s actions by invoking the name of Jesus over those possessed by evil spirits. Perhaps it was effective for some demons, but when they try to exorcise a powerful demon by saying “by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims” the demon acknowledges that it knows Jesus and Paul but not them. So this demon beat them up until they left the house naked and bleeding. Then the event becomes known throughout the city, Then Verses 17 onwards, the Jews and the Greeks living in Ephesus were all seized with fear, and the name of Jesus was held in high honor. The Ephesians sorcerers suddenly realized that words hold no power but “Jesus whom Paul proclaims” does. Many who practiced magic arts, the sorcerers, worshiped Jesus, repent from their witchcraft, and brought their scrolls, which contained spells and incantations and publicly burned them. And it said in verse 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

The Gospel will change..

*WHO YOU ARE - Jesus is the only one that can help us truly change from our old lives to our new redeemed lives.

*PEOPLE AROUND US - When our lives change because of the gospel, everyone that sees, interacts with us, will be changed as well. Changing our community starts within us. So change starts within us, change starts from one person accepting the Gospel and then through that person the gospel will be accepted by their household as well. The gospel will be accepted by the people surrounding them.

*EVERYONE WHO HEARS THE GOSPEL- If people see and hear that our lives and the lives of the people around us changed, even if we don't have a direct interaction with them. They will see how good and how powerful our God is, even if we don't have the chance to share our life stories with them directly.

DISCUSSION

What fears or struggles are keeping you from sharing your faith? What truths about God can you meditate upon to fight against those fears.

LIFE APPLICATION

Let us seek every opportunity to proclaim the Gospel through our words, actions and through our lives. When we accepted the gospel, we will no longer be the same. The normal of this world will no longer be normal for you. That it only takes one changed life through accepting the gospel to change the people around them and the community.

And how do we actually implement this change in peoples lives through the gospel? By sharing the gospel. How would people accept the gospel if no one is sharing to them?

DISCUSSION

Consider two people in your life today that do not know Jesus. How can you pray each of them specifically today? Can you plan a time to purposely invite them to church, a Life group or engage them in spiritual conversation?

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

Romans 10:15 (NIV)

15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

PRAYER

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.



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