



OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD
THE HONEST SEEKERS
MAY 7 – MAY 13, 2017

SERMON OUTLINE

The Honest Seekers Acts 8:26-40

Honest Seekers will often Encounter God Though Us

1. God Prepares the Encounter
2. We Prepare to Be Witnesses
Philip's Practical Demonstration:
 1. Look for an Opportunity
 2. Take the Opening given
 3. Begin with a Question
 4. Begin where the Seeker is Searching
 5. Tell them Good News
 6. Tell them How to Receive it

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

MAIN POINT

God goes to great lengths to reach the lost.

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

Connect the sermon to the study.

1. We all get into arguments with friends or family members from time to time. Describe how a recent argument with someone affected your relationship.

2. How did you reconcile your relationship with that person after the argument ended? Who reached out to whom? Why was reconciliation important to you?

Leader: We all get into confrontations and fights that lead to a need for reconciliation, and that reconciliation always costs something. Similarly, spiritual reconciliation involves a change and exchange that redeems a person back to God at great cost. We are reconciled to God by grace through faith in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God so desired that we would be in a relationship with Him that He sought us at the cost of His Son's life. Now He invites His people to model His heart by praying for and seeking others

DIGGING DEEPER

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> [HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 5:6-10.](#)

3. Note the words used in this passage that describe the relational divide that exists between us and God. What do these words reveal about the lengths God went to in order to rescue us?

4. The list of people that you would willingly die for is likely very small. Who is on your list? What type of relationship has to be in place for this type of sacrifice to occur? What does that tell us about Jesus' perspective of His relationship to us?

Leader: Paul notes that Jesus died for us when we were "powerless" and "sinners," not when we proved ourselves worthy or perfect. Rarely will someone die for another person, but God has taken great pains to save you because He loves you. You are valuable to Him.

5. Think about the change that Jesus' sacrificial death has brought about in your life. How is your day-to-day life impacted because God sought you and saved you?

Leader: The greatness of Jesus' sacrificial death is found in the fact that He died for people who were utterly hopeless and helpless. When we let this truth sink in, we respond to Him with worship, service, and a commitment to join Him in His mission of reaching those who remain lost. This is what Paul encouraged Timothy and others to do in one of his letters.

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7.

6. What do we learn about God in these verses? How do these truths impact how you relate to Him?

7. Read verse 4 again. How do you reconcile the fact that God wants everyone to be saved with the reality that not everyone is or will be?

8. What insight do these verses give us into the connection between prayer and evangelism—seeking the lost? How does God use our prayers in His effort to bring people who do not know Him to a saving relationship with Jesus?

Leader: God wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (v. 4). However, God's desire to save the lost does not mean that all will be saved. Each individual has to come to the knowledge of the truth of the gospel and respond to it in faith. According to Paul, we should pray for "all people" (v. 1). This seems like a tall order. But after all, we pray because it is pleasing to God (v. 3). Paul also encouraged Timothy to pray for governmental authorities who could help provide an environment conducive to evangelism. In a time when Christianity was spreading rapidly, persecution was also on the rise. Praying for those in authority was a way for the people of the church to be actively involved in God's efforts to bring "all people" (v. 4; note the same language as v. 1) into a saving relationship with Jesus (v. 4).

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

9. What can you do this week to keep God's saving work in your thoughts? How might your week look differently if you do?

10. What would it look like for our group to commit more time to praying both for the people God is seeking and for ourselves as we try and reach them, as Paul encourages us to do?

Leader: You may want to challenge your group to make a list of people you are praying for together on an ongoing basis. This is just one way we can remain committed to joining God in His efforts to bring people into a saving relationship with Jesus.

11. Seeing all that God has done to seek you, how are you modeling God's heart as you seek to reach lost people with the message of the gospel?

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

PRAYER

Praise God for His reconciling work through Christ that brought you to Him at the right time when you were hostile and helpless. Pray that the people in your group would understand their need for a Savior and trust fully in Christ.

MEMORIZE

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PASSAGE

ROMANS 5:6-10

5:6. In 5:6-11, the apostle developed this theme further with stirring language and comparisons. In particular, he described the vast gulf between divine love and human love. Paul set the stage for illustrating the radical difference of God's love by first stating it as a basic fact of the gospel. First, God loved us when we were helpless. This means that apart from Christ we were completely unable to make any positive move toward God. Second, Christ died for us when we were ungodly. We could claim no moral goodness so as to make the case that we might be worthy of His death. Third, Christ gave His life for us at the right time. The Scriptures teach us that God had salvation by the cross and resurrection in mind even before the foundation of the world (see Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:18-20).

5:7-8. Paul could imagine a rare scenario in which someone might be willing to die on behalf of a just person or a good person. However, the greatest imaginable case of human love cannot begin to compare to divine love in which while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

5:9-10. God showed His love by saving sinners when we were at our worst, helpless and ungodly. Since this amazing display of divine love is true, how much more can we trust the promise that we will be saved through Him from wrath. That is, we as believers have nothing to fear about the end-time judgment because we no longer are under God's wrath. Our sin-debt has been paid in full by a loving God who gave His only Son to die in our place. The justified not only escape God's wrath in the judgment but also are saved to experience the fullness of life as God intends. Here Paul had in mind not only a superior quality of life—life in Christ—but also longevity of life—that is, eternal life.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

2:1. Petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings are several different terms for prayer. Paul was referring to "all sorts of prayer."

2:4. Come to the knowledge of the truth is a way of referring to being converted. "The truth" is often used in 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus as a synonym for the gospel.

2:5-6. These verses provide the theological basis for the preceding statement that God wants people to be saved.