

Matthew 22:36-40; Take the Great Commandment Literally

Message Notes

Nothing can stop the mission of God. It is contagious. What if we had the opportunity to follow in the first churches footsteps where the Lord added to their number daily. (See Acts 2:41, 2:47, 4:4, 6:7, 9:31)

God was at work in the first church. Faith in Jesus was contagious! And what if this is our time?

How do we get big? To get big we start small.

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16

What if when Jesus says receive the kingdom like a child it means we need to actually see the world through a more literal and concrete viewpoint like a child so that we heard what Jesus' said and actually did what he meant?

Scripture: Matthew 22:36-40

The second part of this command (You shall love your neighbor as yourself), we have often moved into abstract, metaphorical thinking rather than taking it quite literally and concretely as Jesus was intending.

When Jesus is saying you need to love your neighbors as yourself, he's talking literally about those you meet and interact with on a day-to-day basis. Why?

1. Loving our neighbors is a small group.
2. Loving our neighbors is personal.

Scripture: Acts 17:26-27

3. Loving our neighbors is intentional.

We start small and remembering relationships aren't built overnight. Jesus is inviting us to long-term loving relationships. Because people were created to be in relationship, yet we live in a time where there is less connection, less engagement, and more isolation.

When we invest in long-term, intentional and personal relationships, we can have massive impact, just like the early church! However, Contagious Christianity doesn't happen if we make people a project. Contagious Christianity only happens when we seek to LOVE others so that they can experience the blessings (and thrive) the way God has gifted, equipped and called them.

How to we start or grow in these relationships?

We B.L.E.S.S. (See: Romans 12:9-16 NLT)

B- Begin with prayer. Pray to God asking Him how He want you to bless the people in your neighborhood. Pray without motivation or agenda. In this season of Covid, even if we can't do anything else we can pray. We can begin to bless and love our neighbors through continual and daily prayer.

L- Listen Well. Don't talk, but listen to people, their struggles, and their pains. God is inviting us to actually listen, because this truly is a love language in today's society as we listen to know, not listen to change.

E- Eat Together. This is where it gets personal. Life happened over meals. Through meals, we are able to move beyond surface level relationships and actually have the opportunity to reveal our true selves that we often hide or mask.

S- Serve One Another. As you listen and eat with people, eventually they will tell you how you can love them and you'll recognize how you can serve them. But it's not only about serving them but allowing them to also help and serve you too. True relationships are reciprocal.

S- Share Your Story. As we share life together, we will earn the right to share our story in ways that feels authentic and organic, not manipulative or agenda-driven. The Holy Spirit leads, we simply respond in faithfulness to the story God has placed in our lives.