



[COMMUNITY] ON PURPOSE - WEEK 3 - PASTOR HOLLY BATES

Sermon Notes, February 20, 2022

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Luke 10:1-20

Introduction

We all have a need for “personal space” in our culture, don’t we? Have you ever had someone get into your personal space/bubble? Our culture has taken this to extremes! Not only do we have a physical space bubble, but we have become such a private and individualistic culture. We come home from work, park our cars in the garage, go in the house for the night. Then open the garage, come out to our cars and pull out of our neighbourhood... never having to see a soul from our community! This is not how God designed us as humans; we need community. This is also not how God designs the church to be effective IN our community!

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - "So I run with purpose in every step."

"We can accidentally be attractional. We can't accidentally be missional" Jerry Gillis
We need to be ON MISSION, ON PURPOSE

God's plan for the church is to GATHER (come together for worship/discipleship/community) and SCATTER (go into all the world and preach the gospel).

God is calling the church to:

1. MOVE OUT- be missional in your community
2. MOVE IN - understand the cultural climate
3. MOVE ALONGSIDE- engage in authentic relationships

"For most of us, what will be required to engage in missional Christianity is to simply reach out beyond our fears and ignorance of others, to overcome our middle-class penchant for safety, to take a risk and get involved with what God is already doing in our cities and neighbourhoods." Alan Hirsch, Right Here Right Now

Conclusion:

Ask yourself:

How can I love here?

How can I serve here?

How can I help here?



Life Group Discussion

Study & Discussion:

- 1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?
- 2.) How does understanding the cultural climate, help us to build authentic relationships with people who may have a different belief system or world view than us? Why is this important?

2) Incarnational ministry assumes that GOD IS ALREADY AT WORK and is involved in people's lives and is drawing them to Jesus! How do we refine the "Art of Paying Attention"?

3) The Pitch vs The Exchange:

	Exchange	Pitch
Assumption	-We each have something to bring to the conversation	-I have something they need
Motivation	-Engage in relationship	-Convince them to do something
Goal	-Mutual learning/Connection	-Winning

What is the value of the exchange over the pitch? How can we do this well? Think about examples in Jesus' ministry when He offered an exchange in conversation, rather than a sales-pitch.

4.) Take a few moments to give each sentence a rating privately.

1 = this is not a personal barrier for me and 5 = this is a strong personal barrier for me
I am reluctant to share my faith and belief in Jesus with strangers, friends or family in my life because:

- I am afraid of what people might say so it is easier to say nothing. (1-5)
- I am afraid they will ask questions that I can't answer. (1-5)
- I am too busy (1-5)
- I don't want to risk losing my friendships/job security (1-5)
- I struggle with my own faith (1-5)
- I don't know how to start a conversation (1-5)
- Other _____

As a group, discuss these barriers without trying to solve the problem or address the issues. Keep the conversation away from "problem solving" and listen to what those in your group are sharing. This is a great way to practice the art of listening and paying attention!

Practicing the Way of Jesus: Presence

Think about someone specific in your community who doesn't know Jesus. Ask yourself; How can I serve them? How can I love them? How can I help them?



Prayer: Thank you that your Holy Spirit has equipped me for everything you have called me to do!