

Session2:

Finding where God is at work

Part1: doing ministry like Jesus

When we think about taking the gospel to Muslims, and planting churches, it seems to be a very difficult if not impossible task. When Jesus came to the world, he faced a very hostile setting as well. In fact, the first century Jewish world was much like the Muslim world today. The Jewish world was ruled by religious leaders, and it was a very legalistic society, many of the rules they followed did not come from the Taruat, but were additions to it. It was a very man-dominated society, and the Jews, of course, considered it to be blasphemy, when Jesus claimed to be son of God, and they reacted with hostility to him, and to his followers.

If you would substitute the word Qur'an for the word Torah in that description, it would exactly fit the Muslim world today, the Bible tells us that Jesus came to his own, and his own didn't receive him, most of the Jews rejected Jesus, the Jewish leaders were very hostile to him, they were enraged when he claimed to be the son of God, Finally they had him killed. Yet the Bible also tells us that many received him, and to them he gave power to become the sons of God. In the mist of the hostility of the Jewish world Jesus planted his church, he not only planted this church, but planted it in such a way, that it grew and multiplied throughout the whole world. How did he do that? The good news is that he showed us how,

as we know Jesus was fully God, but he was also fully man. In his humanity ,he modeled for us how to do the work of the kingdom of God, we find a pattern for how Jesus accomplished work to kingdom laid out for us in *John5:17—20 it says my father has been working until now, and I have been working.....most assuredly I say to you, the son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does the son does also in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these that you may marvel.*" (NKJV)

In its simplest form we could summarized the way Jesus worked in this way, he found individual people in whose hearts God was

already at work and invested himself in those people.

The 5 Guiding Principles of the Way Jesus Did Ministry

1. *Jesus knew the Father was at work.*

“The Father works until now.”

2. *Jesus was committed to joining the Father in the work.*

“And I am working”

3. *Jesus knew He could do nothing apart from the father.*

“The Son can do nothing on His own”

4. *Jesus was constantly looking where the Father was at work.*

“but what He sees the Father do”

5. *When Jesus saw where the Father was at work, He joined Him.*

“The Son does also in like manner”

We see 5 principles in the pattern of the Ministry of Jesus. The first principle we see is that Jesus knew the Father was at work, Jesus said my father has been working until now. In other words wherever Jesus went, he knew that God the father had been at work and was still working in the heart of someone there, he knew that most people would be hardened to the truth, hearing it but not understanding it, but the father would be working in someone to prepare him or her to hear the truth and ultimately to receive it.

The next principle is Jesus was committed to join the Father in the work. Jesus said and I have been working, not only was the father at work, but Jesus was at work as well, right alongside the father, he was one hundred percent committed to doing the work of the father, whatever the father showed him to do Jesus was willing to do it, there was no limitation to Jesus' obedience, it did not matter what people might say, what the danger level was, what the cost might be. As Jesus said *“Mark10:45 for even the Son of Man did not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*(NKJV)

Thirdly, Jesus knew that he could do nothing apart from the father. Jesus said, the son can do nothing of himself, if Jesus said this, how much more do we need to realize this great truth, the flesh profits nothing, only when the son was following the leading of the father could he accomplish the work of God. How did this realization affect Jesus? He stayed in perfect fellowship with the father, he prayed and he watched to see where the father was at work, he received direction from unceasing conversation with the father. Looking at the model of Jesus should clarify our need of prayer and dependence upon God, what is needed in Christians' lives is not our best thought of God, but our clear thoughts from God, not the activity we generate but God initiates that activity.

The fourth principle we see is that Jesus was constantly looking with Spiritual eyes and listening with Spiritual ears to see and hear where the father was at work. Jesus said he could only do what he sees the father do. When Jesus went into a village, looked at the crowd, he was looking for someone in particular, because he was in perfect relationship with the father, Jesus would recognize where the father was working. He could sense that the father had been at work in the heart of Peter, of John, of Matthew, of Zacchaeus or the women at the well in Samaria.

Finally we see that when Jesus saw where the father was at work, he joined. When Jesus saw what the father was doing, Jesus did also in like manner. When the Father revealed to Jesus who was responding to him, Jesus would cease any other activity and focus on that person, or persons he knew in whose heart father was at work in the special way. Let us think of two examples of this, in *LUKE 19:1---10* *Jesus was headed into Jericho and he was going, there to find where father was at work and to join him* “*Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.....*”(NKJV)

How do we know that? Jesus told us so, in John 5:17 as usual the crowds were gathered around him, but in that city there was a man in whose heart God had already been at work, his name was Zacchaeus, he wanted to see Jesus, but he had very little chance of getting close to him. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, he worked for the Romans. The Jews hated Romans and hated taxes. Nobody was going to let Zacchaeus come through the crowd to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was very short, so he could not look over the crowd, so Zacchaeus climbed up into a tree, hoping to see Jesus as he came back. When Jesus saw him, he stopped, he left crowd behind and

went to spend the day with Zacchaeus. That really did not make any sense, why did Jesus leaving the enthusiastic crowd of people behind to go and spend the day with a notorious sinner. The father was showing Jesus, where he was at work. This Zacchaeus was a man that Jesus was seeking, this was the man that Jesus would use to build his church in Jericho. Jesus heard the voice of the father, saw where the father was at work and joined him. Zacchaeus believed in Jesus that day and his life was radically changed. Jesus would leave Jericho, but Zacchaeus would stay and become a powerful witness of Jesus in Jericho. The ministry of Jesus did not bear lasting fruit because everyone responded well to him became his disciples, it bore lasting fruit because he knew how to find those who would respond well to him and become disciples. It is a huge shift in our thinking, when we go from trying to do the work of God, to finding out where God is at work and joining him, we need to do ministry the way Jesus showed us how to do it.

We are going to look at now LUKE 10: 1-20. In this passage, Jesus was sending his disciples out to towns where himself had not yet been, they would be going to places where they had not yet heard the gospel. What we have here is Jesus teaching his disciples how to do ministry like he did. He was sending them to do on the job training, and how to find that particular person in whose heart God was already working. Jesus knew that the father had already been working in these places preparing people to hear the gospel.

DO

“Five Guiding Principles and Read and Respond” pages 34-37 in the Camel Rider’s Journal

Part2: Finding person of peace

John5:17—20 my father has been working until now, and I have been working.....most assuredly I say to you , the son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does the son does also in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these that you may marvel.” (NKJV)

In the Luke 10 passage just look that Jesus is teaching us, how to find what he calls “Son of peace or men of peace”, of course could be

woman of peace as well. The idea is that this is the person who is at peace with the messenger and message he is bringing. He's friendly to messenger and open to hearing more about message which of course is Jesus. Notices how this is parallel to the way Jesus did ministry.

The parallels Between the Way Jesus Did ministry and the Way He Taught His Disciples To Do Ministry

1. They were to expect to find God already at work.

“The harvest is truly plentiful”

2. They were to commit themselves to be at work with God also.

“I send you out as sheep among wolves”

3. They were to realize that they could not do the work by themselves.

“God had to show them the man of peace”

4. They were to watch to see where God was at work.

“If a son of peace is there”

5. When they found where God was at work they to join Him

“Remain in the same house”

First, his disciples were to expect to find who God was already at work. Jesus said the harvest is plentiful; in other words God had already been worked in towns and places where they were going, preparing the hearts of people to receive the truth about Jesus

Second, they were to commit themselves to be at work with God also. Jesus was sending them out to do the work, notice that he told them to pray that the lord would rise workers up to do the harvest, but he also send them out to find those workers, they were not going there to establish the church, they were going there to find the person that God would use to plant his church, in that town or in the other area, like Zacchaeus in Jericho for instance.

Third, they were to realize that they could not do the work by

themselves. They were completely dependent upon God. I am sure that they were fearful and intimidated as they went out, but Jesus assured them that even though they were helpless, as sheep among wolves, their shepherd would watch over them, and lead them to the man of peace; Jesus told them to take nothing with them, they went out totally dependent upon God, they were told to pray that God would lead them to the workers for the harvest, which were the persons of peace in those places where they were going? They had no money, no food, and no places to stay, so their needs would drive them straight to the man of peace who would take them in and feed them. Their needs made them like metal to magnet of the Man of peace. The more dependent you are upon God, physically, emotionally and spiritually, the greater is your chance to finding the man of peace.

Fourthly, they were to watch to see where God was at work. Jesus told them to go in and make their presences known and he would guide them to the home of the person in whose heart God was already at work the man of peace.

Last when they found where God was at work they were to join him. Jesus told them that when they found the man of peace, they would stay with him. They were to invest themselves in that person of peace that God had showed them, the historical setting will help us understand this better. In those days there were no nice hotels in every town, strangers or travelers would come to a town and wait by the city gate or in an open place in the village for someone to invite him to stay at his home, God told his people to care for strangers and be hospitable to them, so those who love God and sought after God would be open and ready to take strangers in.

But there was one added element for the disciples of Jesus, they came into the village to proclaim the message, repent, for the kingdom of God is near, they made their presences known, they came telling that they had found the Messiah, his name was Jesus; they told the wonders that he had done, most people would listen for a while and walk away, some would be indifferent, others would laugh, but one man would listen intently, and then he would come and invite him to his home, he had heard what he had been talking about, so by his very invitation he was saying, I want to hear more about this Jesus. This was the man of peace.

If you continue to be open the disciple would stay with him, continue to teach about Jesus and he would come to faith in Jesus.

Then he would be the man in that community that Jesus would use to build his church. Years ago, Kevin, the originator of this camel method was working in the south Asian country, two volunteers from United States came to work with him, Kevin had heard a sermon “based on Luke 10” about finding a man of peace, so he suggested that the three of them went out and try to find out the man of peace. He picked the city where they would go and headed out, because they tried to talk to many people along the way, they arrived in the city very late in the day; they had to secure a room in a government building, in order to have a place to stay at night.

They were discouraged, no one had responded to the gospel along the road. Then as they were getting to bed, someone knocked on the door, there were two Muslim men standing there,

they heard that three men had come to their city speaking about Christianity in their language, and they wanted to talk with them. Four or five Missionaries had come to the city a few years earlier; they had prayed for the daughter of one of the Muslim man, they prayed for her in the name of Isa which is the Muslim way to say Jesus. She had a leg problem, within a few weeks, the daughter was healed, and the two Muslim man had been convinced of the power of Isa, Kevin asked why the men had not given them more information about Isa, the Muslim man explain that the Missionary was not able to speak their language, so for the next two hours Kevin explained to the Muslim men how God brought salvation to people through Isa.

The Muslim man ask how they could help Kevin and his friends, Kevin asked the man if they could arrange a meeting with some Muslim women to share the story of Isa, Muslim woman can open the household to the gospel, but it’s very difficult to get the opportunity to speak to them. The men agreed, the next day Kevin spent three hours with two men and group of 25 Muslim women sharing the story of Isa, and showing the Jesus film. when they finish that day, Kevin and his friend’s left, and notified the church planter, what happened, six months later, they asked another church planter to travel to the city and see if they could find this two men。 to his amazement, the church planter found that one hundred twenty five Muslims had been baptized and five churches had been formed. Two years later, the number of baptisms had risen to three hundred and there were fifteen churches. All of these happened, because Kevin and his friends had found the man of peace.

For three years, God had been working in the hearts of these two men, preparing them to hear and receive the gospel, then God send Kevin and his friends to share the gospel with them.

In John 3:19----21 Jesus told us, he is the light of the world, he said those who are of the truth come to him, the others turn away from him, if you go into a dark room, and you turn on the light, the cockroaches flee, but the moths are drawn to the light, this is what we are doing. When we go to Muslim we simply turn on the light of truth of Jesus, and like the moths the person of peace would be attracted to him. As you go among Muslims, you would be looking for that men and women of peace, but how do we go about finding that person, how do we make our presences known, how do we get a chance to begin to talk to them about Jesus, that is what the camel method is all about. Remember that one of great obstacles of reaching Muslims is ignorance. You do not know what to say to Muslim, I didn't know what to say to a Muslim either. But by using the Qur'an as a bridge, the camel method would teach you what to say and how to say it in such away, the Muslims will listen. Before we go on to learn the camel methods, you need to take honest look at the way you attempt to serve God. Are you just pressing along by your own strength, or are you following the pattern that Jesus set down for you. Looking for those men and women of peace in whose heart God is already at work.

DO

"Finding God's Person of Peace" pages 37-40 in the Camel Rider's Journal