

## Talk It Over

## King Jesus (Week 3) Embrace His Mission

### SMALL TALK

1. What emotions have you felt when you found a valuable item that was lost?

### VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Luke 15:8-10.** How do we know that the woman lost something she valued?
3. What did she do when she found it? What emotions are obvious from her statements?
4. This is the middle story of 3 stories Jesus told back to back in response to an objection (see 15:1-2); what was that objection, and how does this story answer that objection?
5. How do these stories confront many modern believers today?
6. How valuable are lost sinners to Jesus? What brings God and angels great joy?

### GETTING PERSONAL

7. When have you strayed from God? What did God use to bring you back?
8. How do these stories make you feel about your value to God?
9. How could these stories affect your relationships with those you know who are far from God?

### MAKING PROGRESS

10. Who are you reaching out to in friendship with someone who is far from God? After sharing your answers, pray for one another in these efforts, and pray for these friends.

October 18, 2020

## **King Jesus**

### **3-Embrace His Mission**

#### **I. THE PROBLEM:**

One large church surveyed their adult members and asked them 1) what they understand the mission of the church to be, and 2) What they understand the mission of their lives to be.

The Pastor telling about it was disappointed with their answers. Only a couple of them understood the mission of the church to be that of making disciples. But what alarmed him most was that not one of the adult members surveyed included “disciple making” as the mission of their personal lives.

This strange anomaly is common in our cultural version of Christianity in America. But how can that be? How can we say it is the church’s mission to make disciples, then at the same time say it is not our own personal mission?

Let’s not fool ourselves. We are the church. If every one of us has a life mission that does not include making disciples, then making disciples isn’t our mission as a church, because we are the church!

In the words of Apollo 13, “Houston, we have a problem!”  
What’s the problem?

...the congregation that ignores mission will atrophy and soon find itself shattered by internal dissension. It will inevitably begin to lose its own young people, disillusioned by hearing the gospel trumpet sounded every Sunday for those who never march.

... If a family fails to seek to gather friends and neighbors to Christ in hospitality and quiet witness, the children of the family will be scattered. We fail to bring up children in the nurture of the Lord if we fail to involve them in our efforts to gather others to the Savior.

The church is not the gathered assembly. We are the church. We gather and scatter to gather others to Jesus!

*John 20:21 (NIV) Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

What Jesus said to all of the disciples, so long ago, He says to all of his disciples today. He says this to each of us who claim to follow him. So, I want you to imagine that the Lord Jesus Christ is looking at you right in the eyes and using your name: JIM "*Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you*".

So on the count of 3, I want us all to read this again, and insert our name. 1-2-3!

**Not Angels announcing, not rocks crying out, but YOU**

Jesus could have advanced His kingdom in a number of different ways than he actually chose to. He didn't choose angels to proclaim it from the sky the way God announced Jesus' birth to a few shepherds. He chose to send you. He didn't have the rocks cry out, which apparently he could have...now wouldn't that be a weird experience on a hike... No. He chose to send you. He chooses to use ordinary people who are his handiwork, prepared in advance by his spirit to tell their experience to others, and explain how Jesus saves.

*Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV)* <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This isn't as hard as we think it is.

**II. THE SOLUTION: Share Your Chips**

(IF WE WEREN'T SO GERM CONSCIOUS RIGHT NOW, I'D Take this bag of Salt and Vinegar chips and start walking down the aisle, offering chips to people in the audience. I'd say, "To speak with grace to people who are far from God is like sharing your potato chips with them."

Just turn to them and offer, "Want some chips? Help yourself!"

One of the simplest acts of grace is to express interest in someone. Just ask them a question about something they care about in life. It's like saying, "Want one?" Here, let me give you some examples just to get the idea...

[Say, "Want some chips?" after each question.]

"Is that a good book you're reading?"

"What's it like to deal with people in your job?"

"Did you grow up around here?"

"How do you keep your balance with all this turmoil in life right now?"

"Would you like to hear an encouraging truth that encouraged me?"

"Can I tell you a story about a Father whose son broke his heart?"

"Would you mind if I prayed for you about that?"

Because we have grace in our lives we can enter conversations by giving MORE than people deserve or expect.

We can have conversations rich in sincere interest, and unexpected sympathy and empathy, which conveys that we CARE. Do we?

We must. Jesus cared in this way and we are following him.

In these caring conversations we are sharing from the chips we have already received from the Holy Spirit's miraculous help. This can touch something soul-deep. When it happens. People want more. They don't want just one chip; they want more chips.

**Keep sharing your “chips” from the deep source of caring!**

You are making people thirsty for Jesus. Even though they don't yet know it. Maybe all they are thirsty for is your care and interest, but they are becoming thirsty for more. Keep caring. Pray. Keep asking God to lead you in this.

**A. This is the MASTERPLAN**

“*The Masterplan Of Evangelism*” is a classic that was written in 1963 by Robert Coleman, and I recommend it to you, if you are serious about making Jesus' Mission your mission.

Jesus announced the coming of the Kingdom, and taught about it, but spent the rest of his life making disciples who would make disciples. That was his Masterplan. We need to stick with that plan.

**B. The Kingdom spreads when DISCIPLES make DISCIPLES who make DISCIPLES...**

Notice that the goal is not merely to add disciples but to make discipling disciples who know how to make discipling disciples. This produces an exponential movement!!

If we believe we are disciples, followers of Jesus, but we never embrace the mission to make disciples, something went wrong. We need to embrace the Mission personally!

Make no mistake, Jesus last command was an IMPERATIVE command; It isn't a suggestion.

*Matthew 28:19 (NIV) ...go and make disciples...*

**C. Jesus did this RELATIONALLY**

Jesus method of making disciples is obedience based instruction that takes place relationally, incrementally over time, with practice, repetition, and perseverance.

*Matthew 28:20 (NIV) “...And teaching them to obey everything I commanded you...”*

It is possible to have Bible studies, classes, programs, and services, and fail to employ Jesus method of disciple making.

He invested his life into people personally and relationally, as he taught them how to walk with God, and for God, and how to seek first God’s Will, and God’s way, in God’s Kingdom. His personal and relational method proves to be slow. It is labor intensive. But ask yourself, how does real heart transformation take place? If we had a needle on a transformation meter in the dashboard of our lives, that needle would prove to move much further every time truth is applied in a relational context by someone who knows you and cares enough to coach you and explain how it applies to you. It usually bumps up during a teaching to a crowd then quickly settles back again. But when you have someone personally watching over your spiritual well being and addresses you personally it bumps way up, with much greater degrees of personal transformation! Jesus knew what he was doing when he told us to go make disciples. He knew what he was doing when he showed us what that looks like. It is the Masterplan.

We use the Masterplan around here, but we need to see it done more pervasively.

Every follower can improve and become our best at this, but anyone who trusts Jesus can begin immediately to share their chips. “Do you want some? Help yourself.” It is as simple as

caring enough to walk and talk with them from wherever they are to where God wants them to be.”