

## Impacting Our World – 3-12-2023 – Pastor Gilbert Silva

It is all too easy for us to become engrossed in various church activities that serve the needs of the people and overlook one important activity to which we are called, prayer.

We are all called to pray for the nations, even if we are not all called to become missionaries and relocate to a country.

Isaiah 56:7 saying “My house shall be a house of prayer for all nations.”

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

As the body of Christ, we must always remember that God desires that we pray and reach out to people in our world.

The world is literally at our doorstep. People of diverse races, cultures, professions, and religious beliefs surround us at work, in our neighborhoods, and wherever we go.

Jesus demonstrated how to reach people who are far from God in three ways.

- He entered their world
- He saw then through heavens lens
- He led them to the Father.

### He entered their world

Jesus taught in synagogues and the temple, but he didn't just wait for people to come to him; he went to where they were.

Luke 5:3 (NLT) Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So, he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

Luke 5:27-28 (NLT) Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. <sup>28</sup>So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.

Luke 19:5 (NLT) When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

Jesus got into Peter's boat, went to Levi's tax booth, and went to Zacchaeus' house.

We shouldn't wait for people to come to church to tell them about Jesus. Instead, we should go into their world.

## **He saw them through the lens of heaven**

Jesus saw people through heaven's lens and was willing to work with people from different cultures and take criticism from his peers.

John 4:6-7 (NLT) Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. <sup>7</sup> Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. <sup>9</sup> The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

The woman knew that Jesus was not following the rules of his time. The Jews didn't want anything to do with the Samaritans, let alone ask to drink from their cup.

She also knew she was a sinner and had been married five times and was living with a man outside of marriage.

But even though she was a sinner, Jesus saw that she would become a preacher who could change a city and offered her salvation.

Peter knew he was a sinner, and Jesus knew it too, but where Peter saw a sinner, Jesus saw someone who would become a great Apostle.

Zacchaeus knew it was true that he was a crooked tax collector. But Zacchaeus he saw a sinner, Jesus saw a man who would become a kind and generous believer.

People don't want us to treat them like a project or another notch on our belt of soul-winning. They want a friend, someone who cares about them and believes that Jesus can change their life and eternal destiny.

How do we see other people for who they are or what they could become?

Jesus went into people's lives and saw them through the eyes of heaven, but he knew that the only way to change their lives for the better was to lead them to the Father, and the only way to do that was for Him to die for them.

## **He led them to the Father**

John 14:6 (NLT) "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Peter was so touched that he repented and became one of the great apostles.

The Samaritan woman was so impacted that she became a follower of Christ and an evangelist to her town.

Matthew was so transformed by Jesus that he led many of his friends to Christ.

Zacchaeus so moved that he repented and went from a cheating tax collector to a generous Jesus follower.

We cannot change people but God can. Our role in sharing the gospel is not to draw people to ourselves but to point them to the saving grace of God the Father manifested through Jesus His son.

Overseas mission is important to us as a local church but we must never forget that we have a world around us that also needs to hear the gospel.

The world is literally at our doorstep. People of diverse races, cultures, professions, and religious beliefs surround us at work, in our neighborhoods, and wherever we go.

If we are to go to the people around us then we must enter their world, see them through the lens of heaven and lead them to Christ.