

REMEMBER

Part 1 – The Gospel

Ephesians 3.7-13

Where it began – 1 Kings 6

- God spoke to Solomon in the middle of his construction project
- Message: don't lose what's most important in the middle of what is most urgent
- Even when it's done with the right motives "I'm building a house for God!"

Called as Ministers

- Everyone who follows Jesus
 - It's all a gift of grace to all of us – Eph 4.11-12
 - Background and baggage don't matter – God often uses them redemptively
- Character is humble and dependent
 - Humility – a humble self-confidence that is free to serve others
 - Arrogance is trying to convince ourselves and others of a value we're not sure we have
 - Arrogance covers up true confidence and calling, hiding who God made you to be by pretending to be someone else
 - Confidence is rooted in Christ but arrogance is rooted in ourselves
 - Dependence – ongoing confession that I can't do this on my own
 - Throughout Paul, his dependence turns into thanksgiving
 - Romans 7 – who can rescue me? Thanks be to God
 - 1 Cor 15 – death where is your victory? Thanks be to God
 - 2 Cor 2 – weight of preaching? Thanks be to God
 - 2 Cor 9 – raising money for famine? Thanks be to God
 - It's this way because the burden is off of Paul (and us!) – not the duty of living according to what God has said but the weight of seeing how it will all work out

Ministry requires proclamation

- Show the Gospel
- Share the Gospel
- The world requires both
 - Sharing without showing is an echo in a hollow shell and sets us up for hypocrisy
 - The Gospel of grace (2.8-9) sets us up for good works (2.10)
 - Showing without sharing is a mute witness to a God who speaks!
 - Preach – Bring to Light – Made known vs. *Rescuing Jesus* book
- No Plan B – He intends to use the church and will speak to a watching world AND spiritual entities (we never know the reverberations)
 - Culture of Invitation – Tell Your Story – Share the Gospel

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who has been the most influential minister in your life? Why did you select that person? What kind of impact have they had on you?
2. In the sermon, Trent emphasized that every person who follows Jesus is a minister. Reread Ephesians 4.11-13. Why is it important to embrace this mindset? What outcomes in the church and outside the church result from embracing this mindset?
3. What would you say are the most important character traits of a minister? Why did you choose those? How do those measure in your life as a minister? In the sermon, Trent emphasized being humble and dependent. How do you think you're doing in those areas?
4. Those who minister are by nature proclaimers. Over the past several weeks, how have you had chances to show and share the Gospel? Over the next couple of weeks, what are two situations you can think of where you need to show and share the Good News?
5. Why are showing and sharing both needed? What are practical, real-world examples of how it goes badly if you don't do both? What are ways that you have seen it go well and transformation results?