

Unashamed

Part 8 – Praying for Your One

Matthew 9.35-38

Rom 1.16

Two Truths:

1. We don't define ourselves for God or ourselves for God
2. Those who experience God's grace deeply express their passion boldly

Message

- Jesus preached the message of the Kingdom
 - What's the message? That the Kingdom that currently **is** (that promotes helplessness and harassment) is not the Kingdom that forever will be (where there will be a shepherd for the sheep) – that's why it's good news
 - More: Jesus has established His Kingdom by dying for our sins and rising again to grant life and freedom for everyone who trusts Him
 - Jesus doesn't deal merely with our identified problems but our deep-seated problems too – not just what we want fixed and made right but what we NEED fixed and made right
- Jesus' message was accompanied with authority
 - We don't have to believe that God will do every miracle we ask for to believe that God will do some of the miracles we ask for
 - "I've not seen it"
 - "He doesn't do those for me"
 - The more we seek the Kingdom, the more we can expect God to do things that only God can do

Condition

- Harassed and helpless – troubled and cast-off
 - "Aren't they sinners?" Yes, but they're broken because of that sin
 - If we see people's badness, it invites our judgment
 - If we see people's brokenness, it invites our compassion
- Specific prayers to pray: (and the reality of the problem)
 - Rom 8.1 – no condemnation in Christ (rid of shame)
 - 1 Cor. 15.3-4 – basics of Gospel -> He "appeared" to me
 - 2 Cor 5.17 – become a new creation in Christ
 - Gal 5.1 – have freedom in Christ
 - Eph 2.1-5 – go from death to life
 - Phil 1.6 – God would complete the good work He started
 - 1 John 4.10 – know God's love

Prayer

- Response to their condition was prayer
 - Not programs, not emphases, not even an initiative
- Prayer for workers
 - To see
 - To be sent
- Specific prayers to pray:
 - 1 Cor 16.9 – wide open door...many adversaries
 - Eph 6.19 – words given...to boldly proclaim
 - Col 4.3 – God would open a door for the Word
 - 1 Thes 2.4 – we are approved, entrusted with Gospel, to speak...

How are they sent? Dancing to music others can't hear

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you have a name for your One yet? How are you doing at your two commitments: praying for them and strategizing about your next step to help them take their next step with God?
2. Which of the verses will you pray this week for your One? Why did you choose that one? Which verse will you pray for yourself as you are sent? Why?
3. What is the most potent example that you can think of when you hear the phrase: "the kingdom of this world." What does the Good News of the Kingdom that Jesus preached say to it? How does the death and resurrection of Jesus speak to it (or against it)?
4. What is the most amazing movement of God (or miracle) that you have *personally* experienced?
5. What kind of "badness" most repels you from people (maybe even your One)? What kind of judgment do you wish it would incur? Where would you find brokenness in that situation that would invite your compassion? How difficult do you find that?