

BECOMING A FEARLESS INFLUENCER

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“This House” Series

Sermon Notes



We are starting a brand new series today called This House. And it's really going to help many of us grasp what it means to be a fearless influencer, and How God leads us into that process. By the way, being fearless is all about Matt 28:19-20. Becoming Christ followers who make other followers.

QoD: *Many of us have interest in something but we have no plan. If you had a friend for instance who had quietly expressed to you his interest in a beautiful lady, but over the course of several months, was not making any progress in actually doing anything about his feelings what would you say? The guy has been telling himself I really like this girl, I like how she walks, I like the way she laughs. Whenever he talks to you he tells you how he feels this girl, how he thinks she could be the one, how deeply she connects with worship and how friendly she seems to the people around her. What would you advise the guy?*

For everyone, there is an area that interests you and you feel that this needs to change but how do you start and what do you do.

Nehemiah 2:1-9

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.² And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid.³ I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"⁴ Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.⁵ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."⁶ And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.⁷ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah,⁸ and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.⁹ Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

Nehemiah was one guy who had an interest and did something about it. What made Nehemiah different from the rest of us was that he was ready with a plan. To influence society you must have a strategy, a plan, you must determine your approach or line of attack.

Nehemiah's brother Hanani, returned from Jerusalem, reported on the sorry state of affairs in the Jewish capital. Nehemiah's position as the king's cupbearer gave Nehemiah access to the monarch and considerable influence.

There are many things we want to do but if asked by the people who can actually make a difference we don't have a clear answer. And to make it worse as Christians, when people ask what we need, we usually say, give whatever you can give. When the king asked Nehemiah, he was ready with an answer.

Fearless influence starts with a definite plan

There are other places in life where we see people impacting society because they have a plan.

This week the 6th Global Entrepreneurship Summit was taking place in Nairobi. At the pre-global entrepreneurship summit, innovators had the opportunity to display their solutions to the entire city. In this space 450 startups were given a simple space to display their ideas. One of the most exciting solutions was a water dispenser that works like an ATM machine. At present people in the low income areas buy a 20 litre jerry can of water for the price of 50-100 shillings. This means that they are always at a disadvantage because those of us who pay for piped water in our homes get it at the cost of 2 shillings a litre... with this new ATM dispenser the Nairobi County Government is able to supply 20 litres of water at 50 cents, which means that people can access clean water at an affordable price.

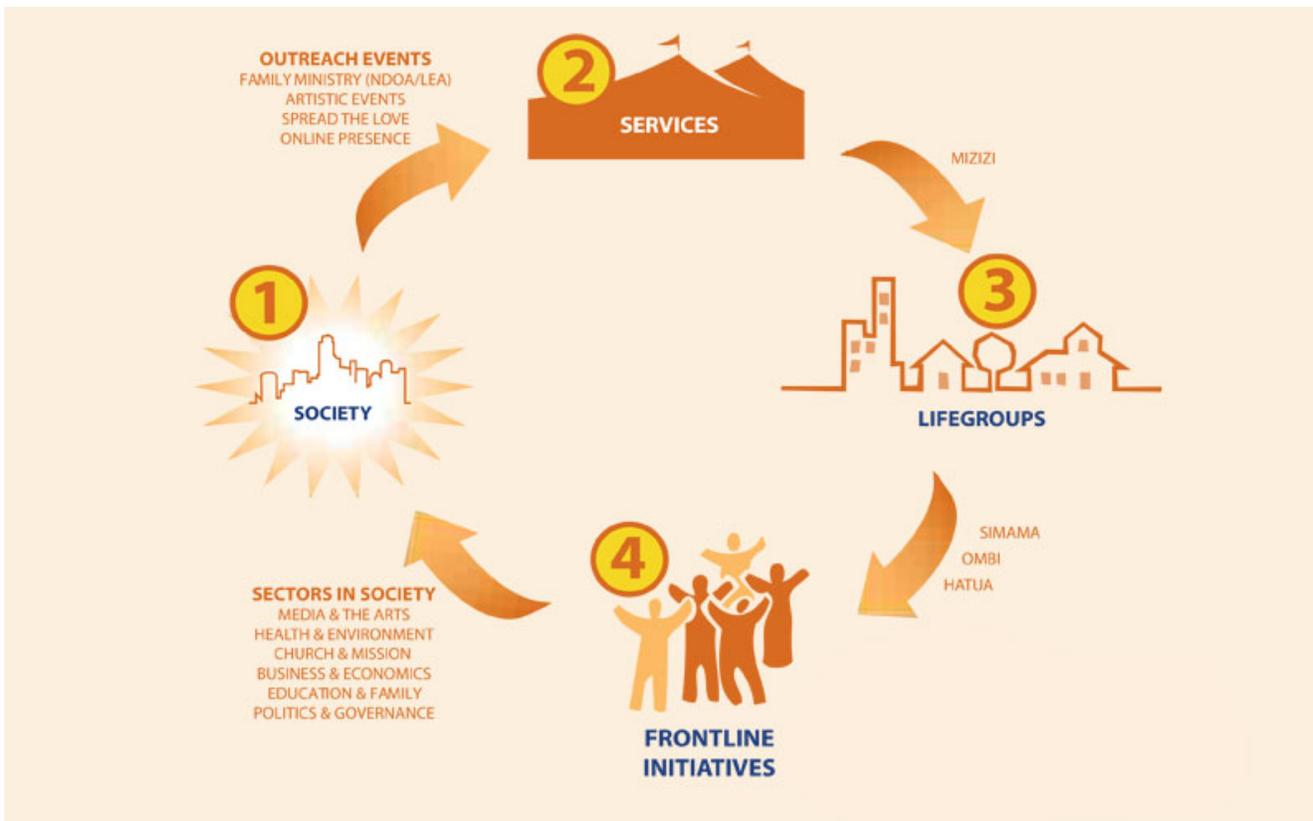
It was clear that some of the ideas were still in the raw stages but at least they had a **simple plan**. As a result of writing their idea, and sharing it at the pre-global summit, they were able to make contacts and get perspectives they had not considered.

Lessons to learn:

- 1. Write:** If you are an entrepreneur and you don't have a business plan you need to write one down. Research the area of interest to get facts and figures.
- 2. Share:** Share your idea with people to keep you accountable and help you think through it so that you consider what you had not thought through.

Here at Mavuno, God has given us a simple tool for getting people from being ordinary, to being fearless influencers. That process is called the Transformation loop, or previously, the Mavuno Marathon. This is our tool for helping Christ followers fulfil their God given potential.

So it looks like this:



Jesus' agenda was to start a revolution of the heart in radical, passionate followers, who would then step out and effect God's influence on their world. And one of the first things he did was to recruit the future leaders for His revolution. Let's see the building blocks. Building Block #1 was to move them...

- A. From Complacent To Consumer** – Jesus selected the least likely people, went where they were, and called them to follow him.

When we began Mavuno, God showed us we couldn't sit in church and wait for those who needed God to find us. Just as Jesus went out to where the least likely people were, we too would have to go out of our comfort zone to reach people who didn't think that church was relevant. Whether its through meeting real needs through our marriage and parenting classes or doing outreach events in our neighborhoods or in nightclubs, our objective is to get these complacent people to realize that their real needs can be met right here. And as they come in, our approach at Mavuno is to present the everlasting truth of scripture to an ever-changing culture. We want to bring God's word to bear on real issues in the culture; sex, money, power, gender, addictions, politics and so on. We want to be known as a real church where real people with real issues can meet a real God! Jesus' desire is to realize it's not about us. As we said, **God wants to make your life so attractive that you will influence many people for eternity!**

But you know, it's not enough to merely get people to realize that their real needs can be met by Jesus. A church of consumer Christians can become a very selfish church. They can become focused on meeting their own needs: Church shoppers – moving from church to church to find which one that is most convenient. That's why there's another building block.

- B. From Consumer To Connected** – Jesus surrounded himself with 12 men who would become his closest friends. He shared the rest of His life completely with them. Unfortunately today, we've been taught a very individualistic Christianity. It's about listening to the deepest preachers, getting inspired and acquiring deep truths. It's about 'Jesus and me' – I mean who needs others? We live in the age where many consume 'church' from the comfort of the homes through the Internet, because it's so convenient. They have no one who knows them really well and who can keep them accountable to apply what they learn. But this is not biblical. You cannot be a Christ follower by yourself! The next block of the blueprint is to learn that **you were not meant to walk alone!** You need to walk with others, which is why we have our Life Groups. *There's something very attractive about being in a community of authentic, real and loving friends.* But most people don't naturally join small groups. They are suspicious and want their space. So God gave us a tool to help us help people enter into Life groups. It's a ten-week study called Mizizi, which helps you connect with God, with your purpose and with others who will help you achieve that purpose. Every 4 months, we begin a new class. It acts like a boot camp and at the end of the 10 week experience, people form very strong relationships. These become our small groups! Our life groups are where real church happens. People meet every week in homes to eat together, reflect on the Sunday sermon together and pray for each other. They also create opportunities to serve society together.

Many churches stop there. But when we look at Jesus' plan, we see that there is more. Building Block #3 is...

- C. From Connected To Committed** – The third building block is developing a servant's heart. As we learnt last week, **in God's kingdom, service is the route to greatness.** *This is what will cause us to stand out and be distinct from those around us.* Through service, we learn how to lead in the kingdom, which is very different from leading in a secular or business environment.

At Mavuno, we have several courses to equip you as you serve, which you do with your Life Group. The first – Simama, helps you extend your influence in your family as you deal with the issues there. The second – Ombi, helps you learn to extend your influence to your workplace – and to overcome the issues

there through prayer. The Third – Hatua, helps you to extend your influence to the society – by understanding God’s heart to impact our society. Each class is a practical experience to help you move your influence to the next level.

Many have asked how one becomes a member of Mavuno. We have two levels of membership. **General membership** is when you join a Life group after doing Mizizi. But **Associate membership** is when you begin to regularly serve in one of our ministries. These associates are the ones who attend our Leaders meetings and who participate in significant decision-making. This is different from many churches where all you need to do to become a member is to sign a statement of belief and take a class. At Mavuno, those who serve are the ones who lead! We get this from Jesus’ blueprint. Building Block #4 from our text today is when you move...

- D. From Committed To Compelled** – It’s interesting that after Jesus had only been with the disciples for 3 years, when he sent them out to change the world! I suspect most of the disciples would have preferred to sit at Jesus’ feet for another 10 years and just soak in what he had to say! I mean who wouldn’t mind having Jesus as their pastor? Just listening to his sermons, soaking it all in, seeing Him do stuff! But Jesus says enough! It’s time to go out and do stuff yourselves! You see, the next building block in the Blueprint is when you have a clear sense of your calling and your commission to passionately represent the Jesus’ mission out in society. Our intention at Mavuno is not to feed you forever. We don’t want you to come here and sit in your seat for 2 hours each week for the rest of your life so that you can be blessed! 2 hour Christianity is not attractive Christianity! God wants us to be 24/7 Christians out in the real world! **You are God’s plan A to heal a broken world!**

At Mavuno, we have defined six sectors of society that we want to commission every person here to impact for the kingdom. These are:

- Church and missions
- Media and entertainment
- Politics and governance
- Health and environment
- Family and education
- Business and economy

The intention of our discipleship process, this whole Blueprint which we call ‘the transformation loop’ is to help everyone here to discern which sector of society God is calling you to influence. Through the process, we pray you will start or engage in a ‘frontline initiative’, which is an activity or institution designed to impact society for the kingdom, in one of those six sectors. Our expectation is that rather than the church supporting a few missionaries through its missions program (the traditional way), at Mavuno, the entire congregation will be missionaries to the world in one sector or another! **You are God’s fearless Influencer!**

Take Out:

- a. Commit to the process of change:** Many of us come here broken, hurting, lost, confused, and even now, we are still changing, I want to pray for people struggling to stay the course. GOD IS AT WORK!!!! You won’t be broken forever. Allow God to love on you in this house, to help you and connect with others. Don’t quit yet!
- b. Commit to the next level:** Serve, take the experiences and be prepared for your next level. Some are ready to be a fearless influencer. Don’t be held back.
- c. Write what God has been putting in your heart.** Make the vision plain. We want to pray and believe God with you for your passions that He put inside of you that they won’t die with you. That you become fully the influencer you were meant to be!