

Monday, March 12, 2018

This week in our Back to Basics Series we continue our study of redemption by looking at the gospel call on our lives. There are two aspects to this call. The first is the general gospel call that everyone in the whole world receives. It is a gospel call that each one of us gets to participate in by sharing with others in our actions and words every day. The second aspect is the effective call of the gospel. The effective call is an act of God in which He calls people to Himself in a way that people will and do respond in saving faith. We will be looking at these two aspects this week.

Pray

We begin each Quiet Time with silence and a simple request for God to speak to us. Each opening prayer this week will be a single verse from the Charles Wesley hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Verse 1: O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!

Pray: Jesus, may I use my tongue to proclaim your praise and grace everywhere I go. You are my Redeemer and call each of us to Yourself. May I be a part of that calling as faithfully as I can be. Amen.

Read

1 Peter 2:4-10

Reflect

What physical mental images does Peter give in this passage to represent what happens to us when we come to Christ?

Instead of a stumbling stone, we are now a living stone in God's holy building.

What does verse 9 mean for our identity?

What does v.9 mean for how and why we live our lives?

Respond

What was it like when God called you out of darkness and into His wonderful light?

Spend time in for praying for people that you know are still sitting in darkness.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Pray

We begin each Quiet Time with silence and a simple request for God to speak to us. Each opening prayer this week will be a single verse from the Charles Wesley hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Verse 2: My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of Thy name.

Pray: Jesus, I desire to tell others about You. Please help me to see the opportunities and windows into each relationship and conversation that I have to share about You. Give to me winsome words and loving action. Amen.

Read

Exodus 1:1-11, 3:7-10

Reflect

We are continuing our theme of gospel call and redemption. This is a narrative story that is played out over and over in the scriptures. Times of people being rescued from darkness into light is the story of the Exodus.

What is the condition of the people?

What is God's role in all of this?

What is the role of a person (Moses) in this rescuing operation?

Does Jesus ever fill this role of Moses?

Respond

Do you see yourself in a role similar to Moses? Bringing a message of hope and salvation?

Spend time this morning praying for people in your life that need to be delivered from their slavery.

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Pray

We begin each Quiet Time with silence and a simple request for God to speak to us. Each opening prayer this week will be a single verse from the Charles Wesley hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Verse 3: Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

Pray: Jesus, I have fears surrounding the idea of telling others about You. I often fret about being rejected myself. Please calm those fears. May your strength and courage flow in me today. Amen.

Read

Matthew 4:23-25

Reflect

Jesus is announcing the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

What is this Good News? How would you describe it to a friend?

Take some time to listen to this song by a group called Rend Collective. The song is entitled (Rescuer) Good News. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAg7rn7fH3Q>

How would you speak this Good News to someone who does not have it?

How is the Good News more than just "I am going to heaven when I die?"

Respond

When did you first hear and understand the Good News?

Pray for people in your life to hear, receive and experience the Good News.

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Pray

We begin each Quiet Time with silence and a simple request for God to speak to us. Each opening prayer this week will be a single verse from the Charles Wesley hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Verse 4: He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.

Pray: Jesus, You have saved me! This is a miracle! You have set me free from bondage and the greatness of this news shall not be kept a secret. Help me to set others free with Your grace, forgiveness and mercy! Amen.

Read

Romans 10:5-17

Reflect

The doctrine of the gospel call is important because it relates to us the vital role we play in sharing and spreading the Good News. People need to hear the truth about Jesus, for salvation is found in no other name.

What truths from Romans 10 resonate with you today?

What are your thoughts about being a missionary? Does being a missionary mean you need to leave Toledo?

Paul reminds us that not everyone welcomes the Good News. When have you been rejected for sharing the Gospel? How did you handle it? Do you allow the fear of rejection to dictate whether or not you share the Good News?

Respond

Where does Jesus want to send you today? Where are your feet beautiful (v.15)?

Pray for the Spirit's leading today and for those who are just waiting to hear the Good News from you.

Friday, March 16, 2018

Pray

We begin each Quiet Time with silence and a simple request for God to speak to us. Each opening prayer this week will be a single verse from the Charles Wesley hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." Verse 5: Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ; ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame for joy!

Pray: Jesus, as You unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, You proclaimed that the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead are raised. I want to see these things happen. May Your powerful gospel go out today into a world of darkness, shaping it for Your Kingdom. I do not want to be a passive bystander in this work. Amen.

Read

Matthew 8:1-34

Reflect

Yes, Matthew 8 is a long chapter, but it contains several narratives about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus does miracles.

What do miracles have to do with the Gospel?

What do you think the purpose of a miracle is?

How does Jesus address more than just a physical ailment in these stories?

Respond

What does Jesus need to heal in you today?

Continue to pray for the gospel to be heard in those you meet today.