



desert breeze community church

Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

March 29, 2009

Jesusology

“How People Change”

Mark 4:1-20

People who encounter the real Jesus are initiated into a life long amazing process of life change. The longer you walk with Jesus the more your life will become more and more like Him.

Mark 4:1-20

HOW DOES LIFE CHANGE HAPPEN?

➤ **Through the power of the Gospel.**

“Seed” = Gospel or Word of God. Word of God has the very life of God in it. The Gospel can release the very life of God in you. (Rom. 1:16; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23)

➤ **The Gospel is the person and work of Jesus Christ.**

Manger: In the person of Jesus—God emptied Himself of His glory. (Phil. 2:5-11)

Cross: Through the work of Jesus—God substituted Himself for us. (2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:20)

Crown: At the return of Jesus—God will make a new world. (Rev. 21)

➤ **It brings me more and more in touch with a new order of life.** (John 3:16; 10:10; 17:3; 1 Cor. 2:9-16; 2 Cor. 5:17; 8:9)

HOW IS THE POWER UNLEASHED IN MY LIFE?

➤ **The power is unleashed the deeper the gospel goes into my heart.** The three soils that don't produce growth in every case is a depth problem. (Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Jn 2-3)

Stubborn Heart (vv15) (Satan): Pride, Prejudice, Pain, wrong Priorities.

Shallow Heart (vv16-17) (Sinful Nature): Formalism, Legalism, Mysticism, Intellectualism.

Strangled Heart (vv18-19) (Society): Positions, Possessions, Pleasures.

- The depth problem is due to all three responding to the **Word of God (Jesus) as a means to an end rather than the end**. (Vv 11-12) (Heb. 11:6; Jer. 29:13; Matt. 6:21)
- The Word of Christ will dwell in me richly through the practice of **Spiritual Disciplines** so that my conduct will be in step with the truth of the gospel. (Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:7; Gal. 2:14)

Racism (Gal. 2) Comes from a fear in the heart that needs to bolster my self-image by looking down on other races. ***I don't need to bolster my self-image if I have the unmerited favor of God (Grace).

Spousal abuse (Eph. 5) The purpose of marriage is to make me happy and I'll be the kind of spouse I should be if and to the degree you'll be the kind of spouse you should be. ***Jesus loved me not because I was lovely, but in order to make me lovely and I'll do the same for you.

Stinginess (2 Cor. 8) For many having a lot of money means status and/or security. ***Jesus' love gives me a remarkable status money can't buy and I don't have to worry about money because the cross proves God's care for me and gives me all the security I need.

WHAT IS THE KEY TO ITS POWER? (John 12:24-26)

➤ **Jesus Christ is the ultimate seed.**

➤ **The power of the Word is the weakness of the Lord (The Cross).**

➤ **As the beauty of His weakness (The Cross) ravishes my heart it will eventually break every thing that binds and bring supernatural productivity.** V20 Good soil produced 30, 60, 100 times!

April 5 “God Rules!” Mark 4:21-34

April 10 “Relentless Love” Good Friday
(6:30 & 8PM @ Church Offices)

April 12 **RESURRECTION** Easter Sunday
“How It Changes Everything!”
(1 Cor. 15:1-17, 30-32)
(8, 9:30, & 11AM @ O'Conner HS)



Growing

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- 1) What does it mean that following Jesus Christ changes your life? What part of your life changes? What is happening if someone claims to follow Christ but their life is not changing?

- 2) How does life change happen in the Christian life? (Rom. 1:16; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23) What is the Gospel? What new order of life (reality) does the Gospel bring us into according to 1 Cor. 2:9-16?

- 3) The power is unleashed the deeper the gospel goes into my heart. What are the three soils (hearts) that do not produce growth? Which one(s) do you struggle with the most? What does it mean that the depth problem is due to all three responding to the Word of God (Jesus) as a means to an end rather than the end?

- 4) How do the following verses relate to getting the gospel deep into my heart? (Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:7; Gal. 2:14) How are racism, spousal abuse and stinginess not living in step with the truth of the gospel? What's the antidote for each one?

- 5) What is the key to this supernaturally transformed heart? (John 12:24-26) What are some things you can do to overcome any barriers to patient, submissive listening to the word so that the beauty of the cross completely ravishes your heart? Make it your prayer.