

Imagine Greater - Part Five

“I REFUSE!”

Pastor Dale Campfield - March 27th, 2011

Intro:

Matt 28:19 *“Go and make disciples of all nations...”*

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Key Verse: Ephesians 3:20 *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”*

Eph. 3:20 is what we deal with in part one of this series. Then...

RECAP:

Part 2 – Ask Whatever You Want

Jeremiah 33:3

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

Part 3 – Great and Mighty Things

John 14:13-14

“And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

Part 4 – Overcoming the Fear of Failure

Matthew 25:21

“Well done good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

TODAY: Part 5 – I REFUSE!

I refuse...

- ...to not share my dream.
- ...to pray empty prayers.
- ...to sit around and wait for someone else.
- ...to live like I don't care.
- ...to wait another day to make an IMPACT.

Let me ask you a question this morning. How many of you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and you know without a doubt that you are going to heaven someday because of that relationship? Please stand.

Now... if you are standing, let me ask you this. Are you sharing Christ with the people in the path of your life so that they too can have a relationship with Christ and end up in heaven someday too?

Is it all about you – or them?

Romans 10:13-17

¹³ For “*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*” ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*“ How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “*LORD, who has believed our report?*” ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Ezekiel 3:16-21 (New King James Version)

Ezekiel Is a Watchman

¹⁶ Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹⁷ “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: ¹⁸ When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. ¹⁹ Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

²⁰ “Again, when a righteous *man* turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. ²¹ Nevertheless if you warn the righteous *man* that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.”

Caution: Actions are not substitutes for words.

Romans 10:14 makes it clear that we must verbally tell people about Jesus. "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" It is important to develop no-strings-attached friendships with the people on your list. Let them know by word and deed that they matter to you, whether or not they agree with you about religion.

Whatever evangelism style(s) you use, at some point you need to share a verbal witness.

6 Tips for Sharing the Gospel

1. Ask God to give you an evangelistic burden for others.

Ask Him to help you see the world as He sees it, and to lay upon your heart a handful of people for whom you can earnestly pray. Then pray over those names every day. Keep a little prayer list, and pray for an opportunity of reaching these souls for Christ.

2. Live a consistent Christian life before them.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

3. Build bridges to them.

Serving type things is important in this area. As you serve them, you'll see the needs tht they have. When the Lord shows you those needing Christ, seek to build a relationship with them. Remember how Jesus went to the home of Zacchaeus where many sinners had gathered?

4. Learn the Gospel.

Do you even know what it says? Are you prepared to share the TRUTH of God's Word and not just your own opinion? Not just debating politics.

5. Watch for openings to share the Gospel.

Take advantage of those opportunities that God gives you. Be bold. Step up. Refuse to not share!

STARTING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

• **The Direct Method**

Examples: (1) “Do you ever think about spiritual things?” (2) “Where do you think you are on your spiritual journey?” (2) “If you would ever like to know the difference between Christianity and religion, just let me know?”

• **The Indirect Method**

This approach uses the topic being discussed as a bridge to a related spiritual topic. (Example: Your friend says he/she is worried about a terrorist attack. You might say, “Whatever happens, I know where I’m going when I die.”)

• **The Invitational Method**

This approach uses a conversation topic as an opportunity to invite a friend to a Christian event. (Example: Your friend asks you questions about The DaVinci Code. You might answer, “Well, honestly don’t know much about it, but my pastor is preaching a series on that subject next month.”) Tips: Offer to pick them up; do something before/after the event.

6. Pray and leave the results with God.

You’ve got to. You do your part and let God do the rest.

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

Even if your unsaved friend won’t listen when you share your faith, you can always pray.

The apostle Paul wrote, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.... This is good, and pleased God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:1, 3).

And as you do.... You wait, you watch, you’ll see!

Coming up...

IMAGINE GREATER Part SIX: ____TITLE???