

Making evangelism a way of life

Going. Acts 16.

PODCAST OVERVIEW

Bullet points from Neville Barnes podcast.

1. Person of Peace and the role of Preparation and Power.
 2. How to help people journey towards Jesus.
 3. Establishing a culture of sowing, reaping, keeping.
- In response to the great commission the disciples uses again and again the model of person of peace.
 - The prior model was the temple model, a building with organised gatherings, rituals, culture. The people went from where they were and moved towards the temple, even from other nations. Outside of temple time local smaller gathering would happen in a synagogue. This was sometimes a person's home from within the community of faith.
 - Is the temple model similar to our church format today?
 - The great commission model was not **come** but **go**. There was no centre, no building, no programme. The ritual was going. The culture was demonstrate what the Kingdom of God is like and explain it to others.
 - The direction of travel had changed from one kind in the Old Testament to a new one in the New Testament.

Seeking out a person of peace was where they started but not where they ended up.

Paul and Silas in Acts 16. A model for mission & evangelism.

- Paul and Silas seek out people of peace (a group meeting by the river to pray). Acts 16 v 13.
- Returning to this group to continue the work they drive out a demon, not the intended work of the day. They prefer to pursue discipling over dramatic displays. Acts 16 v 16-18
- Kick back, negativity, criticism, discouragement, constraints and rejection follow... and it all started so promisingly. Acts 16 v 19-24
- They ended up in a pretty desperate situation with no apparent way out. Acts 16 v 23.
- They'd never been called to this place nor to the people in the place... or maybe a calling wasn't meant to be so detailed. Its interesting God didn't interrupt Paul in order to get him to do something new but interrupted him in order to narrow it down, redirect him elsewhere v6.
- Would we make this a place of mission or make a way out!?

Limitations to any context

CONTEXT

Context is an opportunity.

Limitations are only of my own making.

WHAT ARE MY MOST FREQUENT LIMITATIONS WHEN IT COMES TO A POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY?

CONDITION

Is condition become the conditional for our mission and evangelism/ Paul and Silas were not called specifically to a prison but were certainly living out of calling.

To live a called live beats living a conditioned life.

Our context and limitations can become the environment in which condition grows.

Ultimately condition will become the container for the gospel and ultimately become the context, the limiter and the expectation of effectiveness of the good news.

We need mission that is primarily proactive rather than reactive to what's around us.

WHAT CONDITIONS GROW IN YOU WHEN CONTEXT/LIMITATIONS ARE NOT TO YOUR LIKING?

RECONDITIONING

Reconnect, repair, renew, reorientation... re!

When circumstances were unfavourable or put Paul and Silas on the back foot, without ignoring the reality of their context they orientate themselves to a context beyond themselves and beyond current realities. A resource that reconditions them.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

- Transitions us from one circumstance to another.
- It resets us and reframes the context/circumstances.
- It reconnects us to our mission setting.
- It is not primarily reactive to mission but proactive for mission.

HOW DOES WORSHIP AND PRAYER BE PART OF YOUR 24/7 LIFE (outside of church services or prayer meetings)

OPPORTUNITY

What are our equivalent 'what must I do to be saved' moments today?

- Paul had unusual or difficult moments that he used as opportunity regardless. Earthquakes in prison, defence in court, in a riot and a sinking ship.
- Get on with life and fold mission into it.
- Everything is an opportunity.

Did Paul have a strategy or a plan?

1. Who and where shall I start?
2. Start point but not the end point.
3. Where are the gathering places around you/
4. What do we need to research or learn about lifestyle, patterns and the culture of the people God has put around you.

5. Wander, look, listen and ask questions.
6. Going is our primary mode of mission.
7. Meetings/events are second phase.

Boldness, Courage, humility, Grace