

TO SEEK A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD?

Matthew 28:18-20

Memory Verses Matthew 5:46, 47

The previous lessons touched on the importance of relationship building in the church. Now the title poses a question because the very thought of seeking relationships in the world has been taught one-sidedly. Most church going people "Wouldn't be caught with them heathens", and for the majority I believe you are right you wouldn't be caught with them but, you might, what then? Peter is sighted in the Bible as having eaten with the Gentiles until certain Jews came around, then he withdrew from them (Galatians 2:11-15). He denied Christ in Matthew 26, and wept bitterly afterwards. Jesus taught the value of establishing relationships with those that are outside your comfort zone in Matthew 5:43-48. The point is sometimes we over do it trying to make a point when the point really is mercy, grace and love, which Jesus has expressed to us all.

We are influenced by the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 to reach out to others. This reaching out is to be exercised with a genuine concern for the apparent state of people. I say this because we have to continue to bear in mind our own undone condition while ministering to others (Galatians 6:1-5). The disciples were instructed to "Go...and make disciples," which means to designate or appoint, and such can only be accomplished by establishing a relationship. Once the relationship is set then comes the teaching by example. When people can see our sincerity for them in association they can rely on us for assistance in matters of the soul. We also have the opportunity to learn from them as they open their lives up to us.

In the memory verse we must be ready to show love towards those that may not agree with us at some point. Here the verses infer how we are often faced with the grand opportunity to deal with conflict resolution. It is easier to avoid opposition than to meet it head

on. How much easier is it to go around a traffic jam in the city, than to wait with patience for the way to clear? Matthew 6:14 teaches that it is important to forgive others if you expect the Father of Heaven to forgive you. Luke adds in Luke 6:32 that the world is always sympathetic to its own, so this attitude is making no distinction. Remember that one of the duties of the Holy Spirit was to make a distinction of God's will and the will of the world (John 16:7-11).

Finally, we must seek to broaden our borders by reaching out to the world in order to share the faith of Jesus with them. The problem comes when we forget our mission to make disciples. When we connect with people our intent is to lead them to Christ and not to just get what we want from them. This is why some marry non-believers or just have children with them, while others enter into business relationships, club and other associations, and the list goes on. The point is that when we become unequally yoked with unbelievers this does not please God (2 Corinthians 6:14). The goal is to become equally yoked with believers. Now if you want to know more about that, I will see you in class next week.

Thanks for your time

Bro. DM Simmons

NEWS & NOTES

PRAY FOR those who are sick and shut-in, those who are traveling, and those who have requested prayer for various concerns.

TRAVELING: Jeremiah Gallington and teammates returning from North Carolina.

WINTER COATS NEEDED: Bro. and Sis. George and Juliet Ochieng, who are here from Kenya while their son is being treated at Spaulding Rehabilitation Center, are each in need of a winter coat, size large. Please see Bro. Simmons if you can assist.

LOOK GOOD, ACT GOOD, FEEL GOOD – Saturday, November 19th, for girls ages 12 and up, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Sign up on the bulletin board. Volunteers are needed to assist with set up

and clean up. Also, if you have a sewing machine that we can use for the day, please see Sis. Loulee Morrison or Sis. Whitney Sands today.

THANKSGIVING OUTREACH 2011: We are looking to prepare 40 Thanksgiving baskets containing Thanksgiving dinner for five for this year's thanksgiving outreach. Please sign up on the bulletin board to donate a basket. We will gather on Sunday, November 20th at 4 p.m. to assemble the baskets, which will be delivered by the Young Adult Ministry on Monday, November 21st. We are asking the sisters to provide the following items for the baskets, as determined by the first letter of your last name: A-F – Roasting pans; G-K – dish towels; L-P – turkey roasting bags; R-W – after-dinner mints. Please see Sis. Craigwell to submit names of those in need of a basket.

MID-WEEK BIBLE CLASS HOMEWORK

Mustard Seeds (Morrison/Morrison) – Parents please assist your child with worksheet "Who is Jesus? Who is Jesus to You?"

Peacemakers (Alexander/Myers) – Practice books of the Bible and prepare for quiz.

God's Children (Holmes/Pegram) – Read Genesis 1:5-6 and write a paragraph explaining it.

Disciples (Malcolm/Transtamar) – Prepare of quiz on the characteristics of God. Please study your notes. Finish classwork.

Dorcas (Pettway) – Write your response to what it means to be a living sacrifice.

UNIFIED VOICES OF NEW ENGLAND UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

- November 19th, Whittier House's Annual Gospel Concert at Berklee Performance Center
- December 3rd, Milton, MA, UVNE annual concert

See Raleigh Gallington, Otis Ellerbee, Jr., Tony Johnson, Alana Johnson, Doris Cort or Tchad Cort for further information.

NORTHEASTERN LADIES RETREAT: June 1-3, 2012 in Harrisburg PA. See Sis. Gallington for further information.

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NEWS & NOTES CONTINUED

YOUTH MINISTRY BAKE SALES: Every Wednesday following Bible class. Please support our youth.

GIRL SCOUTS: Please see Sis. Wendy Craigwell or Sis. Denise Simmons to sign up for girl scouts.

Church Calendar

"...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ..."

– Ephesians 4:12

November 2011

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
● 30	31	1	2	3	4	5
● 6	7	8	9	10	11	◆ 12
● 13	14	15	16	17	18	◆ 19
◆ 20	◆ 21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Worship Services

- ◆ - Special Events
- - Ministry Meetings

Events

- ◆ 11/19 – Look Good, Act Good, Feel Good Workshop (9-4pm)
- ◆ 11/20 – Thanksgiving Basket Assembly
- ◆ 11/21 – Thanksgiving Basket Delivery

Meetings:

- 11/13 – Deacons' Meeting

Weekly Events:

- Community Bible Study (Mondays @ 7pm)
- Prayer Meeting (Tuesdays @ 7pm)
- Mid-Week Bible Study (Wednesdays @ 6:45pm)
- Adult Choral Group (Thursdays @ 7:30pm)
- Basketball Night (Fridays @ 7pm)
- Men's Prayer (Saturdays @ 7:30am)
- Women's Prayer (Saturdays @ 9:30am)
- Youth Choral Group (Saturdays @ 2pm)