

Pastor Toby Locke Week 4 – 10/14/18

Planning to Reach Out: Pray Matthew 9:37-38

Introduction: Do you have a **plan** to effectively reach the lost people around you? If God had revealed one in His Word, would you want to know it?

First Step of God's "Reaching Out" Plan: PRAY!

So, what should we be praying for *ourselves*?

- \Rightarrow <u>MOTIVATION</u> to get in the game. *Matthew* 9:37-38
- \Rightarrow <u>OPPORTUNITIES</u> to speak up. *Colossians 4:3*
- \Rightarrow The right <u>WORDS</u> to share. *Ephesians* 6:19
- \Rightarrow <u>BOLDNESS</u> to follow through. *Ephesians* 6:19-20
- \Rightarrow <u>CLARITY</u> in communication. Colossians 4:4

Conclusion: Before we say a single word, we need to be people of prayer!

If we're not reaching out effectively to lost people, could it be because we haven't asked God to do anything about it?



Icebreakers:

- 1. Tell your craziest "bad weather while driving/riding in a car" story.
- 2. Have you ever been a part of a fun surprise party? How much planning did it take to pull off?

Sermon Summary: If we want to reach lost people, we need a plan. The plan must start with prayer – prayer that God will **motivate** us to reach people, that He will give us **opportunities** to speak up, that He will help us find the **right words**, and that we'll say them **boldly** and **clearly**.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you a planner or do you like to be spontaneous? Prove it with a story!

* <u>Motivation to get in the game.</u>

2. Has God ever snuck up on you and moved your heart in an uncomfortable or disturbing way? Tell the story!

* <u>Opportunities to speak up.</u>

3. Have you ever had an open door to talk to someone about God in some way?

4. How can we learn to recognize open doors when God provides them?

* <u>The Right Words to share.</u>

5. Can you remember a time when someone said exactly the right words that you needed to hear? Tell the story!

6. How much do you worry about having the right words to say to lost people?

* Boldness to follow through.

- 7. Have you ever witnessed someone be bold in speaking for God in a secular environment? How did it make you feel?
- 8. Are you a bold person by personality? How can you keep from coming across in an overly harsh way?

* <u>Clarity in Communication.</u>

9. How hard is it for you to put yourself in the shoes of a lost person? Why?

10. What "churchy" words or phrases do we tend to use that could be unclear?

<u>Prayer Prompters</u>: (Consider splitting into small groups of 2 or 4 to pray!)

-Take time to pray these 5 prayer requests for each other!

-Name one lost person that you know you'll interact with this week somehow. Then ask God for an opportunity to speak *something* into their life this week.