



Pastor Toby Locke
Week 3 – 10/7/18

Getting Ready to Reach

Matthew 9:35-38

Introduction: Most important tasks require some preparation before diving in.

What can you do to get ready to reach lost people?

⇒ ENGAGE the people around you. **Matthew 9:35**

⇒ SEE the NEEDS of the people around you. **Matthew 9:36**

⇒ Open your HEART to the people around you. **Matthew 9:36**

Concluding Application Questions:

- When was the last time you audited your own heart?
- Have you enlisted God's help in getting ready to reach lost people?
- Have you gotten started yet? Why not?

Debrief Plan: 10/7/2018

Icebreakers:

1. What is the most memorable live Olympic sports moment that you have experienced (either in person or watching on TV)?
2. What is something that you enjoy doing that requires a lot of preparation?

Sermon Summary: Before we can effectively reach lost people we need to prepare ourselves by directly engaging the lost people around us, learning to look beneath the surface to see their needs, and opening our hearts to be moved by what we see, just as Jesus did.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the advantages of just diving into the process of reaching out to lost people without taking a lot of time to prepare? What are the disadvantages?

*** Engage the People Around You!**

2. Was Jesus an introvert or an extrovert? Give evidence to support your answer!
3. How did Jesus's approach to lost people differ from the Pharisees of his time? Did the Pharisees have a point?
4. What fears come to the surface when we engage the lost people around us?
5. Give an example of how you can intentionally engage lost people more often while still in the flow of your "normal" life.

*** See the Needs of the People Around You!**

6. When you interact with people, what is the first thing that you tend to notice?
7. When you have trouble really "seeing" people, is it more because you're too self-preoccupied to notice them or because you're repulsed by what you see?

*** Open Your Heart to the People Around You!**

8. What are the downsides to keeping an "open" heart?
9. When you allow your heart to calcify, what is usually the reason?
10. We may not be able to feel all of Jesus's compassion for lost people all at once, but what small steps can we take towards opening our hearts?

Prayer Prompters: (*Consider splitting into small groups of 2 or 4 to pray!*)

-Identify one lost person (or one *kind* of lost person) who you especially have a hard time really seeing and having compassion for. Spend time praying for God to change your perspective on that person and open your heart towards them!

-Invite God to do whatever it takes to get you ready to reach the lost people all around you.