

## KNOWN, PT. 4 - LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

- I. **INTRO:** LAST WEEK OF OUR VISION SERIES (POSTER). RECAP MISSION AND STRATEGY.
- A. **STOOL:** These first three components of our strategy are indispensable. To do what?
1. MAKING DISCIPLES! **Matthew 28:18-20.** How will we make disciples with a leg missing?
    - a) If you're a Christian, you've been SAVED from your sin and CALLED into a new life!
      - (1) LEG #1 - Called to a life of submission to the Word of God with Jesus as Lord.
        - (a) NO LEG = You're still the Lord of your life. Not being disciplined into anything.
        - (2) LEG #2 - Accepted as child of God & called to a life of healing/ transformation.
          - (a) NO LEG = Faith has no significant meaning in your life. Extracurricular.
          - (3) LEG #3 - Not only accepted by God but by new family. Called to live together.
            - (a) NO LEG = Neglect the primary way God grows us. In community.
    2. We believe that to MAKE DISCIPLES, these three components are non-negotiable!

B. And if we cannot make disciples INSIDE the church w/o these three legs, then I also don't believe we will be able to make disciples OUTSIDE the church...aka reaching our neighbors.

    1. And that lead us to the **fourth component of our strategy: SENDING.** Jesus has sent out his church to love their neighbors and proclaim the gospel to them.
    2. To proclaim the Kingdom...that there's something better than this world can offer.
      - a) How can we proclaim there's something better: healing/transformation/forgiveness/wholeness/peace/joy...if the church isn't representative of the Kingdom?
      - b) And we don't represent the Kingdom of God if we don't have all three legs.

C. Let me explain it this way: illustration of Kingdom as a Banquet Table. (Is. 25)

    1. If church = look/feel/smell like Kingdom...then church itself is like a Banquet Table.
    2. **TABLE:** And Jesus has sent us to invite those who are lost to feast at this table with us.
      - a) Need to ask: Are we inviting our neighbors to a table where...
        - (1) We're only serving fast-food.
        - (2) You have to wear a mask to be comfortable.
        - (3) Most people don't consider the others at the table.
      - b) If we're inviting our neighbors to a table like that, it's not very compelling. I don't believe we can truly reach our neighbors unless we have all three legs of the stool.

II. **Read Luke 14:12-24.** Banquet=Kingdom. Many invited guests do not want to partake.

A. Jesus at Pharisees house. Jews first invited (Rom1:16) but to eat means to follow Jesus.

    1. They wanted the label of invited guest but did not want the new life that it requires.
      - a) They were more concerned about the things of this world than the Kingdom of God.
    2. Isn't the same for the church? Many invited guests who want label but not the new life.

B. And so Jesus says that he is going to send us out to fill the seats at the table with two groups of people: (1) those in most need & (2) those who are most lost.

    1. See, Biblical Hospitality is not just about throwing a great dinner...biblical hospitality is about having a seat at your table for the outsider, the broken, the poor, and the lost.
      - a) See, b/c God left a seat open for sinners like us and sent Jesus to invite us in.
      - b) He knew about all of our baggage and sins and failures and he still wanted us.
      - c) He wanted the mess to be at his table so he could heal and transform us.
      - d) And that is the ministry that he has called his church to in this world.

C. And this morning, I am excited to talk about one of the ways we as a church are going to go out into our community and invite our most vulnerable neighbors to the table.

    1. That is through a new ministry we launched a few months ago called the GAP.
    2. But, instead of me just talking about it...I'd like to explain what the GAP is through letting you hear Dustin's story...check out the **video**:

III. Grace Hill, this is what we're going to be about: building relationships with those in most need in our community and inviting them to our table.

A. Taking Jesus seriously when he says that in order to follow him we have to lay out lives down in love of God and in love of our neighbor.

    1. Amazing Opportunities: FCDfs, HMS, YOUNG LIVES.

B. PRAYER CARDS: Call to prayer about what it looks like for you to get involved.

IV. PRAY