

Creating Space. Expecting Harvest: Tools that work...even buildings.

Sermon Notes

October 8, 2017

Review: Loving Jesus, Loving what he loves—others, creating space (margin) to love on people, and experiencing the joy of generosity.

Having many tools in the toolbox. OT Survey

- God used a dove to be his messenger of deliverance to Noah. **Genesis 8:11**
- God used a staff (a stick) to validate his message before Pharaoh and the people of Israel. **Exodus 4:16-17**
- God's prophetic voice to a prophet was a donkey. **Numbers 22:28-31**
- God's teacher to Jonah was a worm. **Jonah 4:6-11**
- God designed a tabernacle to be his residence among the people of Israel and a place to gather the people to worship. **Exodus 25-30**
- This structure was so important that he filled people with His Spirit to uniquely give them skills to accomplish the task of building this tabernacle. **Exodus 31:1-11**

Did God need these things to accomplish the task? NO

He chose the tool as a means to arrest our attention to Him and his glory!

God still has a toolbox he uses post the Cross. NT Survey

- According to Jesus, the place of worship still has a vital role in God's work on earth for all nations. **Mark 11:9-11, 15-17**
- Post the temple curtain being torn and the Holy Spirit's arrival, the believers gathered at the Temple to worship.

***Acts 2:42-47** "They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.** They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily who were being saved."*
- The apostles went to the synagogues regularly to teach. **Acts 14:1**

- We are commanded to continue to gather to be strengthened and spurred on towards action.

Hebrews 10:24-25 *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

- Paul gives us rules for worship as to when the whole church gathers. **1 Corinthians 14:23-26**

Take aways:

1. We are called by God to gather the church together to worship, both for his joy and for our strengthening and encouragement.
2. A place of worship is meant to be a place for people of all nations to gather to worship Him.
3. A place to gather for worship is a strategic tool that God uses to advance His Kingdom.