

The Here and Now

Introduction to 42 Seconds

Introduction

God is inviting us to see and experience the presence and leadership of Jesus in a way that will bring love and transformation in our lives, and in the lives of the people we come in contact with everyday.

Big Question: Do we believe it?

- Do we spend our time thinking God's good plans are just "over there"...when I have a little more time, or a little more success, or ...what is it for you?
- Do you believe the sovereign king of the universe wants to reveal himself and show his goodness to a world that desperately needs goodness and love, and that you have a part to play, right now?
- Can you imagine stepping into his perfect plan for you with no big moves, extra hours in the day, or greater intellect required. Does that sound like good news?

Obstacles to each person effectively participating in showing love of Jesus to the people we come in contact with: (mention based on the specific needs of your group)

- Hierarchical culture - congregants leave the "ministry" to paid staff and leaders.
- Insular culture – lots of activity within the church, little concern or activity beyond the walls of the church
- Evangelistic culture – speaking to and loving others outside the church is relegated to those who "have all the answers" and/or are "gifted with evangelism"
- People generally unrelatable, hyper-spiritual, or awkward to those outside the church.
- Lack of vision and confidence in the average congregant.
- Other?

We are starting a collective journey to learn from Jesus, how to be like Jesus, in our normal everyday conversations and interactions.



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Embracing Everyday Interactions

What is required of us? Willingness. Open-Heart. **FAITH.**

Jesus' standards weren't too high regarding who he invited to follow him, and who he included in his team of Kingdom good news emissaries. (Think teenage fishermen, Samaritan woman, Astrologists from Persia, you & me)

Biblical Text Options

Jesus loves Faith. His idea of faith is, perhaps, different than ours.

Matthew 15:21-28

This Canaanite woman comes to Jesus – wrong religious group, bold and annoying, wrong gender. Desperate to receive from Jesus. Believed that He could do what she asked. Passionately cared for her daughter. ***She had great faith according to Jesus.***

Luke 7:1-9

Centurion – a Roman Military leader. The “enemy” of most of Jesus' followers. Believed that Jesus could act, with only his words. Understood authority and the power Jesus had. A powerful man advocating for the needs of a poor servant. ***He had great faith according to Jesus.***

Because of their Faith, we are reading about these two people today. Not because of their bible knowledge, their outgoing personalities, their evangelistic gifts. Because of their love for others, because of their willingness to risk putting themselves out there for the sake of other people whom they knew needed a touch from Jesus...they had the wonderful privilege of collaborating WITH Jesus to bring kingdom goodness into the lives of people.

Do we believe Jesus is willing to do the same with us?



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Application

Where is your desire? Where is your hunger? Where is your faith?

Participating in the "wonderful plan" of God for our lives, and the world, won't happen without faith. Without believing that God wants to intersect your life, that he cares about the people you come in contact with everyday, and he wants to partner with YOU to bring his good news to the world.

Do you believe it? Are you willing?

Closing

None of you are here by accident. All of you are made in the image of God. God loves you and wants you to be part of his Kingdom-Good-News-Love-Bringing-Hope-Mission to the world.

Share your church's plan for going through 42 Seconds together.

