



Date: February 28, 2016

Title: "Do You See What Jesus Sees?"

Summary: The speakers interviewed 3 guests who told how Jesus opened their eyes to the needs of people around them. One sees crisis in families. Another sees a lost and empty generation. A third sees the needs of a weak church.

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" Matthew 9:36-38 (New International Version)

Icebreakers (pick one):

Share an experience you have had with a foreign culture (e.g., co-worker, travel, hosting students, etc.) Tell something you learned about that culture that surprised or fascinated you.

Each of the guests told how they had a void in their life that they learned could only be filled by God's love. Briefly share what brought you to Jesus.

Several phrases were key themes in the message. Pick one of these phrases and discuss what it means to you: "sheep without shepherds;" "the harvest;" "seeing;" "called to a deeper love;" "workers are few."

Into the Bible:

1. Read Matthew 9:36-38. Jesus tells His disciples to look at the harvest. What does Jesus see? What does He command us to do about the scarcity of workers? What harvest fields do you see? Do you see a "plentiful" harvest?
2. What does it mean to have "eyes for the people around us"? How can we "see" more clearly? (*Look at some other passages regarding how God opens our eyes: 2 Kings 6:17, Luke 24:31 and Eph. 1:18.*)
3. One of the guests told how he became disillusioned by the dreams of his youth. He thought he wanted certain things, but he decided to give them up to have Jesus. He told us how costly that decision seemed at the time, but how good it looked later when he attended his 10 year school reunion. Why are we often reluctant to let go of our dreams to follow Jesus? (*See Isaiah 55:8,9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'"*)

Application:

4. Review the 7 stages of discipleship (below). Where do you see yourself? What are you doing to keep growing? How could you help someone else through these stages? How can you become better equipped for that?
 - Benefits (to attract others)
 - Relate (build relationships to share Christ)

- Integrate (after they accept Christ into the church family)
- Deepen (learn more about God and Scripture)
- Giving (serve others)
- Equip (take on leadership roles)
- Sent (having the ongoing mind set of being "sent")

5. The speakers told us that Christ-followers should not "sit, soak, and sour." Instead, we should engage in God's work around us. What is one "harvest field" that sparks your interest? Is something in your "comfort zone" holding you back? *(Remind the group how each of the guests told of a particular need that sparked them to leave a promising career. One is being used by God to take the gospel to hurt and broken families. Another is called to a lost and empty generation of young professionals. The third supports and trains church leaders who have not been adequately nurtured in the Word of God.)*
6. One of the guests told of church people whose daily lives seemed disconnected from their Christianity. Like the parable of the sower in Matthew 13, the seeds of the gospel seemed to have not fallen into good soil. Have you seen that kind of Christianity, or perhaps even experienced it? How could you help other church people to understand what it truly means to believe in Jesus?
7. The speakers gave us an open invitation to visit their city. Have you ever thought about using your vacation in this way? What would hold you back?