The Coffee Shop Story: Why Do We Struggle To Teach The Lost?

David Banning

INTRODUCTION

- Our master is deeply concerned about lost people.
- He came to rescue lost people. And that he wants us to care about that too. And calls us to partner with him and his work to rescue lost people.
- The vast majority of disciples sitting in church buildings this morning do very little to help lost people find their way to Jesus.

1 The Problem Is With Consciousness

Matthew 9:35–38

- One of the reasons this work is neglected is because we simply don't have lost people on our hearts.
- So focused on the temporal that the eternal can hardly break through on the edges.
- We think about it too late because that's not really where our minds are focused.
- He felt compassion for them because they were distressed and dispirited, like sheep without a shepherd.
- The harvest is plentiful. But the workers are few.
- It isn't difficult to raise our consciousness.

2 The Problem Is With Confidence in Our Craft

Colossians 4:5–6

- Sometimes disciples don't do very much to reach lost people because they're just not confident that they will be good at it.
- Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
- We're telling people how to be saved. There isn't a person in this crowd that can't do that.
- The first time you tell someone the gospel may not be your best presentation, but the hundredth time will be better.
- What steps did you take to be better at winning lost souls?

3 The Problem Is With Courage

Matthew 28:19–20; Psalm 118:5–9

- Fear is a huge factor that holds us back and keeps us from talking to people about Jesus.

- This is the Lord's work. This isn't really our mission. We are servants executing the mission of Christ.
- When my people go out to do my work. They do not go alone. He goes with us until the end.
- The Lord is for me. I will not fear. What can man do to me?
- The vast majority of fears that we have never materialize.
- When I think about what I'm up against compared to what they're up against, we ought to be very confident.

4 The Real Reason: We Don't Care

Romans 2:5–9; Romans 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:6–9

- The real reason we struggle to teach lost people is because we don't care.
- It's not, do I care at all? It's do I care enough.
- The wages of sin, the price, the penalty that is paid for sin is death.
- These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord from the glory of his power.
- We teach the gospel because they're lost. And they need to be rescued.
- If we really believe, somehow these other factors that we talked about this morning, I think they take care of themselves.

THE CHALLENGE

Do I believe people are lost? Do I really believe that? And then two, do I care?

MY NOTES