



## PART 3 - Be Friendly, Sow Seed, Follow the Holy Spirit's Lead

### **BIG REVELATION = God LOVES PEOPLE**

- \* Every person you cast eyes on is a person Jesus CHOSE TO DIE FOR.
  - \* The Scribes & Pharisees said they LOVED God, but in reality they HATED people ... at least those OUTSIDE their INNER CIRCLE.
  - \* Just as the SHEEP mattered to the SHEPHERD, the COIN to the WIDOW and the errant SON to his loving FATHER, each ONE MATTERS.
- *What had the Pharisees got horribly wrong and how did Jesus' 3 parables in Luke 15 speak into their error?*
- *Do you think that the people around you think that you love them or that you're a project? Or do non-Christians think like that? What would 'making them a project' look like? How does loving them look different?*

### **OUR STRAPLINE**

"Eyes UP, heart OPEN, feet WALKING, hands OUTSTRETCHED, knees BENT."

- \* It's easy to get so BUSY that any INTERRUPTION or unplanned INTERACTION becomes an IMPOSITION.
  - \* If our hearts aren't bursting with COMPASSION, we'll never TAKE a WALK.
  - \* Following Jesus' example, are we prepared to step out of our CIRCLE of COMFORT and into the ZONE of the UNKNOWN?
  - \* Are our hands outstretched with the conviction that we have something WORTH SHARING and the RESPONSIBILITY to share it?
- *Are you too busy? Do you get irritated by interruptions or unplanned interactions? Is there margin (space) in your calendar to give you the freedom to go where the Holy Spirit says go?*
- *Are you 'on the look-out'? Do you notice the people around you and are you empathetic to their situations / needs / eternal destinies? Has this course so far made you re-examine anything?*
- *How can we make sure that our hearts remain open to outsiders? That we continue to sense the compassion of the Holy Spirit on the inside?*

### **BIG QUESTION: So, you've walked across the room ... WHAT NOW?**

→ *What do you tend to do? What stories can you tell from your past experiences? Are you prone to do too much too soon, or too little too late?*

#### **1. BE FRIENDLY** (Colossians 3:12, 4:5-6)

- \* You don't have to WIN the ARGUMENT, be their SAVIOUR or FIX them.
- \* You don't have to be SUPER-CHRISTIAN or have all the ANSWERS, you just have to be FRIENDLY

- \* "People don't CARE how much you KNOW until they KNOW how much you CARE."
- \* Walking across the room is the FIRST STEP, but it's just the BEGINNING ... It's a MARATHON not a SPRINT.
- \* Good core skill: ASK QUESTIONS to OPEN up the HEART.
- \* People won't LISTEN to you until they KNOW and RESPECT you; but YOU can LISTEN to THEM.

→ *Where are you tempted to jump in? Is it to fix them? Is it to win the argument? Is to try to offer solutions to all their problems? If you feel that constraint within you, are you any good at listening to it?*

→ *How good are you at asking questions? If you're honest, does it tend to be about them or about you? Are you a good listener? Are you patient?*

→ *It's a marathon not a sprint. There's very rarely a quick outcome. It'll probably be a five year investment at least. Discuss!*

#### **2. SOW KINGDOM SEED** (Galatians 6:7-9, 1 Corinthians 3:6)

- \* You can't SAVE THE WORLD, but you can SOW SEED.
- \* You may be a PLANTER ... or a WATERER ... even a REAPER ... but Only God MAKES SEED GROW.
- \* Use the Word as a SEED, not a CLUB (Isaiah 55:10-11).

→ *Does this mindset help take the pressure off? Or is it a cop-out?*

→ *How might you sow seed? How do you water? What does it mean to say that only God makes seed grow?*

→ *What does it look like to use the Word as seed? What does it look like to use the Word as a club?*

#### **3. DO WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT ASKS; NO MORE, NO LESS** (Acts 1:8)

- \* Do LESS and we'll MISS the OPPORTUNITY.
- \* Do MORE and we run the risk of BLOWING IT.
- \* Simple, step-by-step, accurate OBEDIENCE and we're COOPERATING with the MASTER EVANGELIST.
- \* It's not EASY ... it's RISKY ... but never FORGET or UNDERESTIMATE who you have WORKING WITH YOU.
- \* Bill Hybels: "My objective is not to CONTRIVE WAYS to get people saved, but to WALK when He prompts me to WALK, TALK when He says to TALK, fall silent when I'm at risk of saying too much and stay put when He leads me to stay put. If I can lay my head on the pillow at night knowing that I have COOPERATED with the PROMPTINGS of the Spirit that day, I SLEEP LIKE A BABY."
- \* Let the Holy Spirit LEAD, INFORM & EMPOWER you.

→ *What would doing too much look like? What might doing too little look like?*

→ *What is the Holy Spirit's role in evangelism? How does He make up for our shortcomings? How does trusting Him help you 'sleep like a baby?'*