

## "Who's In" Sermon Notes

1/8/23

### Introduction

Closed out "Gifts" sermon series

Today's teaching serves as a nice Segway from learning and praying about our gifts to now seeing how those can help support our vision here at Restoration.

- What is that vision?

**That we are a family that exists for people find and follow Jesus**

- Scripture: Proverbs 24:3-4, which is found on page 545 of your pew bible

*By wisdom a house is built,  
and by understanding, it is established;  
by knowledge the rooms are filled  
with all **precious and pleasant riches** Proverbs 24:3-4*

- **Who doesn't want this?**... my title this morning is "who is in?"
- Prayer
- We are going to use our vision statement this morning to serve as a reminder of who we are, and why that is.
- Why it's important to hear
  - First timer: You get a glimpse into what we are about here and our approach to faith
  - Long timer: This is a call to action. It serves as a Reminder of what we know is already true about us; that you were built to build...
- We are going to break this down into 4 components of that vision..What I call the 4 fours:
  - For People
  - For Finding Jesus
  - For Following Jesus
  - For Jesus
- Purposely not focusing on the first part of the vision that we are "Family"?... as a confirmation, describe family; reminded by trip to Mexico
- **Point 1: For People**; All people
  - **The reason we are for all people, because the bible says that all people were created in the image of God. The latin term for that is Amago Dei.** In fact, God loved all of his people so much, he defined This path before we were born

- Let's look at Ephesian 2:10, which is taken from the letter, written by Paul (not Paul Wilson), to the Ephesian Christians.
  - Main goal was to energize their faith. It's the same goal for all of us.

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.. Ephesians 2:10 NKJV*

*We have become his poetry, a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny he has given each of us, for we are joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it! The Passion Translation*

- **Which also means We are for the lost, the poor, the downcast...** the souls that the world had deemed without value or worth

**We find in Luke 14:22-24**

*Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.*

- We are for all people...
- Share stories of Food Bank (more than just the food)

Why else are we for people, beside the command in this scripture? WE are for people because Humanity was originally designed to be like Jesus; but through the brokenness, it's hard to see that reflection, especially for those that are downcast, poor, etc. and we want to point people back to Him. Imagine you are that person looking at your own reflection in a broken mirror...It's impossible to see who you really are...which is why we are for people and have a sense of humility as we see life and seek the true reflection of Jesus. Because without him...we are all lost.

Simply put. We strive as a church to be this.. if someone comes in looking deshoveled, tatoos, freshout of county lock up.....in need of something...this serves as a reminder... **we are for all people**. God hates the wicked, but there will be a day when all wickedness will be judged. In the meantime, we are called be like Jesus to all people...

- Even for the seasoned Christian, let's not forget where were at one point in our life.
- ***Ephesians 2:1-9** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body<sup>[a]</sup> and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>4</sup>But<sup>[c]</sup> God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace*

*in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

- This is why we are for people...Who is in?
- When we do that well, we are then better able to help others Find Jesus...which brings us to point 2.
- **Point 2: For Finding Jesus**

I love this verse, because if you are a seasoned Christian, this is an extension of your faith..and if you are someone just trying to determine if this Jesus thing is real, it simply gives you a the most important starting point.

*<sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

For some of us, it may seem that God is so far away, hard to find.....

as a confirmation, look at Acts 17:27

*that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet, he is actually not far from each one of us Acts 17:27*

important thing is that if you are seeking God, just know that he is not far, you can find, him and we are here to help find him.

How and on what authority?.....

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20*

- Baptizing them is finding Jesus, teaching them is following...disciples do both.
- Describe opportunities abound to reach people and help them find Jesus

(Story about praying for someone just met)

God loves to be pursued. Solomon writes about God in Proverbs 8:17

*I love those who love me,  
and those who seek me diligently find me. Proverbs 8:17 ESV*

Once we've helped people find Jesus...the work doesn't stop there. Think about when you sent your kid off to school the first day of kindergarten. Remember the first day that you dropped them off. It's not as if we are then done, but are called follow along side, guiding them...helping them find Jesus ...

## Who's in to help others find Jesus?

Not only do we help people find, but we also help people **follow** Jesus...which brings us to point 3

- **Point 3:** For **Following Jesus**
  - this is work (not works), meaning that we aren't trying to earn, gain, sustain..
  - This is the good work done out of gratitude for the many things given to us by Him
  - We help souls navigate through the seasons of difficulty
    - A reminder to ourselves and all people, that it's Ok to not be ok... just can't stay there...
    - but with corrected vision, that they too can become more like Jesus every day

*By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire 2 Peter 1:4*

- So, As a church, we are called upon to learn about Jesus, implement them in our own lives, and point others to follow him
- SO, how do we do that..?
  - Life-on-life... community groups,
  - invitations to break bread with someone you don't know that well....
  - You can attend a church retreat on Jan 27-29 in Santa Cruz (see what I did there)?
- **I'll ask again....Whos in?**

So we are for people, for finding Jesus, For following Jesus ...and why is that....BECAUSE WE ARE FOR JESUS

Leads us to the final point today....

- **Point 4:** We are **For Jesus** – Preach the Gospel

I think of two words...Sacrifice & Response

- Easy to forget we serve a God who understands sacrifice. He knows what it's like to lose for a greater good.
  - John 3:16
- Another truth is that as a believer we will also be called to sacrifice.
- We can make the necessary sacrifices because He doesn't ask us to do something he hasn't done himself.
  - Response: Matthew 16:24

- This is our call to action..making time for Jesus, studying the word, and applying this bringing others along
- We are For Jesus

I'd like to refer back to the scripture we started with:

*By wisdom a house is built,  
and by understanding, it is established;  
by knowledge the rooms are filled  
with all precious and pleasant riches Proverbs 24:3-4*

This church was built on the wisdom and participation of those that call it home. By understanding our vision as we've discussed today, we know that this entire room will be filled with precious and pleasant riches..

Considering this..I ask one final time.....**Who's in?**

Now Before we go, I'd like to share 1 last story about this trip to Mexico...and it speaks to a community of believers **that exists for the same reasons we do....Describe Mexico prayer room...** town called Chinguitiro

Call the band up...

Communion

*22 And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." 23 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. 24 And he said to them, "This is my blood of the<sup>a</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many. Mark 14: 22-24*

- Pray for the bread and juice

Benediction