

CUTTING THROUGH THE CULTURAL FOG – Session 3

Moving Forward in a Backward World

Luke 19.10

LPA Clip – But, we are losing ground.

So, **how do** we move forward in this world? How do we speak into this post-truth world?

Simply stated, we join Jesus in His mission. TEXT

1a. We must be Intentional: focused on making outsiders insiders v5

Zacchaeus, “righteous one,” should have been “renegade,”
As the chief tax collector, he was a known & disliked person

2a. We must be Indiscriminate: willing to reach out to anyone v5

Easy to give up on a Zacchaeus.

Easy to stay isolated.

“In every society, certain groups of people are considered outcasts because of their political views, immoral behavior or lifestyle. Don’t give into social pressure to avoid them.” Life App

Will you befriend a trans person? (pastor whose impact on a cross-dressing trans is real.)

Secret Confessions of an Unlikely Convert by Rosario Butterfield.

3a. We must be Unpredictable: not bound by normalcy v5

Jesus talked to a man sitting in a tree.

Some of our standard approaches were once radical, like Sunday School for children

I taught CPR for the AHA. Now, I teach Motorcycle Safety Courses.

Not for everyone, but it is for me.

Leading a nation wasn't the norm for Moses. One question that moved him out of normalcy was this: What is that in your hand?

4a. We must be Counter-cultural: reaching out to those least like us. V7

“. . . since people who were nothing like Jesus liked Jesus, people who are nothing like Jesus should like us as well. There should be something about us that causes them to gather at the periphery and stare.” Andy Stanley

Top 10 tips for Evangelizing (from an Atheist)

1. Be like Jesus: Hang with the sinners and judge the judgers.

“Instead of having the pew hinder you, having the church hinder you, instead of being segregated in the church or among yourselves, go out and have a barbecue and meet people and start breaking bread with people and getting to know them.” Don Lemon

The people least like Jesus, liked Jesus, and if we are like Jesus, people will like us is different than **“If you come** you will be welcomed and if you are like us, you will like us.”

5a. We Must Risk Our Reputation: mission is more important than reputation v7

people murmured

Put your reputation at risk

Baseball players in Scranton, a biker meeting in a bar

Keep a watch on yourself, let you too be tempted.

“Christians have abandoned so many areas of society, from media and the classroom. Instead of withdrawing, we need to go and invade these areas and take them for Christ and not be afraid. We are on the right side. We have read the last chapter, and it says we will win.” Dr. Michael Youssef

6a. We Must Be Authentic: share in the most natural of settings v5

Sometimes I use Ex 4.2 to challenge people: “What is that in your hand?” A
Stick.

That has taken me . . .

Into a locker room, onto a golf course, and into a bar in the Harley world

The ‘nones’ are increasing

People less likely to come to church than ever before.

We need to go

Bottom lines: Truth Matters, Talking Matters, Testimony Matters

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. James 3.17

What defines someone whom God is using to impact the culture for Jesus? The answer is found in these words, they are “. . . the salt of the earth . . . the light of the world.

“If food lacks salt, the fault is not with the food. If a dark room lacks light, the fault is not with the room.” Jim Denison

We have cut through the fog of the topic.

Only one question remains.

What will you do with what you now know?

As I began doing research to prepare for this conference, I was overwhelmed by what I was reading. Then I was astounded at how relevant of a topic this is. Daily I would find new illustrations. Things I thought relevant a few weeks ago, now seem out of date. I had never had that experience of dealing with a contemporary topic where contemporary depended on what time of day it was.

So I wrote what for me was more poem than prose.

When I was growing up, things were pretty much black and white.

Blacks lived here, whites lived there.

There were only two genders.

Marriage was between a man and a woman.

The news came at predictable times with the morning and evening newspapers.

And, the most trusted man in America was a news broadcaster.

At the end of a broadcast, he would say, "And that's the way it is," and we believed him.

I would like to say, "fast forward to today," but that would be moving too slowly to keep up with the warp speed pace of change today.

Nothing is so binary as it once was.

Black lives matter.

No longer 2 genders.

Marriage options continue to grow.

News is fake and facts are unprovable or unfalsifiable.

So, here we are, standing with an ancient text in our hands, speaking into a post-modern

world moving in hyper speed into an unimaginable tomorrow.

It may be an ancient text, but it is not an outdated text.

It is the eternal Word of God.

In it, the timeless truths of God intersect with the time-bound lives of people.

It is both forever and for now.