

Just Walk Across the Room (JWAR) Week 1

The Choice of the Heart

Intro: My first Experience with “Evangelism” in Ministry: Talked, Asked: If you were to die tonite When we are talking about JWAR...that IS NOT what I have in mind!

Working on Dredge: Deckhand, Mate All summer...Going back to school...
“What is this Christian thing all about?” I told him...Thanks...I understand...think about it...
Next day..not awkward at all...

JWAR: Matthew 8:1-4 Pg 686

1. Spiritual Information Is Not Enough To Change Lives. Vs 1

- Came down: From Sermon on MT Greatest Sermon Ever Preached
- Can communicate INFORMATION to Crowds: Transformation takes place 1 on 1
- Information Changes Minds. Love Transforms Lives
1 Cor 8:1 “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up”
~Puffs up= To make proud, to inflate (emptiness)
~Builds up=To strengthen, to build (substance)

Key: If we want to see transformed lives we need to move AWAY from trying to communicate information, and TOWARD communicating a love that encourages transformation! Information is NECESSARY...not usually Sufficient!

2. Most People Do Not Doubt God’s Power...They Doubt His Love or Concern for Them. Vs 2

- If you are willing Lit= if you CHOOSE to
- I am willing: Jesus repeats the EXACT same words
- Choose: Lit = if you have it in your heart! Two entirely different greek words
~One is a choice of the mind
~One is a choice of the heart!
Jesus...If you have it in your heart you have the POWER to heal me!
He is not doubting the Power of God...He is doubting God’s love!

As a result, Jesus didn’t then start to try to convince Him of God’s power...He chose to show/convince him of God’s love
Jesus did something that was absolutely radical, something UNHEARD of in that culture...No good Jewish man would ever do
Vs 3: Jesus reached out and TOUCHED Him!

3. Our “Touch” Validates Our Words. Vs 3

- Jesus Touched: Made himself ceremonially unclean! Outcast! Sacrifices, Offerings before Worship! Major Issue
Touching others lives is always an inconvenience. It comes with a price. It is a sacrifice
Time, Money, Energy, Inconvenience When we open our lives to them...IT costs!
Cartoon: Pastor, I want to do something that touches and changes eternity...Tuesday, 4-6 free....
- Jesus Spoke: Notice: He spoke AFTER He touched Him! It was the WORD that healed...not the touch!
The touch was the validation!
Illus: Power of touch online: EVERY discipline, Sports, Medicine, Education, Physical Development
- Leprosy left: Jesus Cleansed Him (Interesting, not HEALED: MEDICAL TERM: CLEANSED: SPIRITUAL TERM

With His touch Jesus was communicating God’s love in the most practical and basic way possible
This man had probably gone YEARS w/o a physical touch from anyone;
He was required by OT Law to live outside community...to announce his approach with Unclean, Unclean
Anyone touching him, brushing up against his clothing was Spiritually and Ceremonially unclean...Offer sacrifices

So when Jesus touched Him...It was an INCREDIBLE communication of God’s love in his life.

CONCL:

What about you? Are you communicating Information...? OR, are you aiming at Transformation...Changing Mind...Heart?
Are You “Willing” to make the choice that Jesus made for the people God brings across your path?

Jesus’ response was immediate: I am Willing: I have it in my heart. Do you?

- I am willing to be inconvenienced: (Left out of worship, offer sacrifices, be questioned by Scribes/Pharisees)
- I am willing to care about you. I am willing to do more than Just TALK...Communicate Information
- I am willing to touch you...and be touched by your need. I am willing to reach out and SACRIFICE for you
- I am willing to pay the price for you. “By His stripes we are healed” Then I am willing means...
~Another Lash ~Another thorn in the crown ~Another strike of the hammer on the nail
- Jesus Said...I am willing....Are YOU?
- Every day someone comes to us...maybe not as blatantly...not as openly...but they come...Ask...are you willing?