

## Just Walk Across the Room Week #3

### Opening Others Hearts to Jesus

**Intro:** -My favorite part..."I haven't had a crab cake in two years...that was special!"

-I was able to study the word...and it helped me...Continue our Series on JWAR

- The Choice of the Heart: "I am willing..."
- Developing A Heart like Jesus: "Jesus went...saw...had compassion"
- How Do you Open Someone's Heart To Jesus...Spiritual Things Matt 11:1-6 Pg 688

#### 1. Look For People That Are Open To And Seeking Spiritual Things. Vs 1-3

John and his disciples were spiritually hungry! Disciples obviously...responded to his message...prepare for the Lord!

His was a message of repentance and turning to God...they responded...so they were spiritually open

John was obviously open...He sent them to Jesus...Are you the one? I thought you were when I baptized you at Jordan...

- ~Spiritual Truth: John 6:44  
"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.
- ~Question: "Are you the one coming? (Promised Messiah?) Is 35:3-10
- ~Should we keep looking? Lit= to watch for, hope for, expect (child waiting at window/door)

Often times we spend all of our effort trying to convince someone that doesn't want to be convinced. We should share, be open, be available...but not beat our head on a rock. Move on...Like Jesus said, look for those that are open...hungry. You see that in His ministry all the time. He spent the vast majority of His time with the hungry hearts. We should as well.

#### 2. Be Ready to Provide Whatever Someone Needs In Order To Draw Closer To Christ. Vs 4-5

There are two essential Elements that are needed for the vast majority of people. Not Either / Or

Most of Us feel more comfortable with one or the other...and we may well spend vast majority of time in our strong suit

**BUT:** Tell John What you have HEARD and SEEN!

- **Heard:** Spiritual Truth from the Scriptures expressed in a way that makes sense to them  
You can build someone a home, make them a crab cake, cut their hair, give them a warm bed, food every day  
BUT...UNLESS you provide a verbal context for all of that love and service, you are just a nice guy!  
We need to TELL people: There is a God in heaven...Holy...Sin...Separation...Jesus Son of God...ONLY WAY  
Repentance and turn to God in Faith...He will Save you because of the finished work of Jesus on cross  
That doesn't come with a crab cake! Tartar Sauce comes with a crab cake...Seafood Sauce comes with Crab Cake

**THAT SAID:** With all of the words we have preached...and it is a non-stop barrage...Radio, TV, etc

We need to provide VALIDATION for the words so they aren't empty!

God loves you...You are fearfully and wonderfully made...More Valuable to Him than Anything!

Here is your stale peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a cup of kool aid. God Bless you, lets pray.

- **Seen:** Spiritual Truth expressed in Actions that underwrite and validate the words!

**THAT'S** why I LOVE...The Crabcakes...and The Study of God's word! What is more special in Annapolis?

It's who we are! It's a treat...something special!

God loves you...You are fearfully and wonderfully made...More Valuable to Him than Anything!

Here is your crabcake and soup...Its cold outside...we want you to know we care.

Haircut? Warm place to stay? Nurse to help with medicine...Shoes...Coat?

**WHY?** Because you are fearfully wonderfully made...You are beautiful...are made for something more!

No one else may see it...but WE do...because God saw that in US...touched us...changed us...now we see others!

- Luke 7:20, 21, 22  
20: Question: Are you the coming one?  
21: At that moment Jesus cured many (actions) Blind, lame, leprosy, deaf...good news preached to the poor!  
22-23: Go tell what you have seen (actions) and heard (message) Blessed is the man who isn't offended by me

Our role is to look for those that are open...and determine ... what do THEY need? Words...or Actions...or Both?

That's how you open someone's heart to Jesus...Look in their eyes...get up close...determine what part is missing

#### 3. Remember That Most People Need to See and Hear the Message More than Once! Vs 4

- Again! Go back and tell him AGAIN...remind him
- John had HEARD and SEEN: He knew Baptism: Behold the Lamb of God!
- John had been in prison for about a year now: If Jesus was the One Coming...what about the promises  
~Circumstances and Life Makes us doubt  
~Trouble pushes us away  
~Vision begins to fade

**ILLUS:** Pictures: Reviewing them...Putting them in order...It all came back

When I go on a mission trip...Lead someone to Christ...Watch as God changes a life, Saves a marriage

- We all need to be told...AGAIN! Announce it, tell it, report it, tell it (Vision Dinner)

**CONCL:**

**How Do you Open Someone's Heart?**

- Look for those spiritually seeking...all around they are open
- Be ready to SHOW...or TELL...whatever is needed
- Be ready to tell them more than once...Esp when they are struggling

**ARE YOU READY?**

...to speak a clear message about Christ to those that need to know?  
...to demonstrate Christ's love in practical ways to those that need to feel His love?  
...to tell the story more than once, and express His love to others over and over again?

**After Closing Song when I return:**

I have had a number of people say to me, I know the vision...I don't need to come...old hat to me  
Maybe...but what you need is a new hat...new vision, new passion...Come be a part of God renewing that