

Transform the World: Real People

Continue series focused on the mission and vision of the church: Titled: Transform The World: Messages are about redefining and refocusing on the mission and vision of the church...

In this series we are talking about the mission and vision of RTBC. We have expressed it this way:

RTBC Church Real People Real Faith Real Community Transform For Christ

Last week we talked about Church: What it IS...and What it Does

Today I want to talk with you about the second part: Real People

What we are saying here is that God uses Real People...Not spiritual giants!

Misperception: *Super Spiritual; Knowledgeable, Got it Together, No Issues, Struggles or Problems*

Not at all True! 1 Cor 1:26-29

1. God Uses People With Limitations

The disciples are perfect examples of what God does with ordinary people. Many times when we look at them we spiritualize them, and overlook who they really were. We see the “highlight reel” NFL Redzone

The reality of the disciples though is that they had all kinds of limitations...JUST LIKE WE DO!

Applic: When I talk with someone about being used by God, NOT ME! NEVER NOT QUALIFIED

Disciples Limitations

- **Doubt:** Peter: Lk 5:5 Fish
Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."
- **Started well but fell short** Peter Mt 14:30 Walking on Water
"But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"
- **Focus on Physical not Spiritual** All Disciples Mt 16:7 Yeast of Pharisees
"They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread."
- **Too Busy for Jesus** Martha Luke 10:40 Getting Ready
"But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"
- **Stuck In Holy Huddle** John: Luke 9:49 Stop doing That!
"Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us."
- **Fail Terribly** Peter Mk 14:41 Fall Asleep Denied Jesus
Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."
- **Follow from Afar** Peter Mk 14:54 At Enemies Fire
Peter followed him at a distance,
- **Don't Recognize Him with You** Disciples On Road Lk 24:15-16
"As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him"

A LOT OF OTHERS

- Harsh and Judgmental (Fire) James and John Luke 9:54
- Run from Him (Disciples Fled) Disciples Mt 26:56
- Missed the point Peter Mt 16:22 Go to cross NO
- Ego James and John Mk 10:37 Sit on right and left

2. God is Not Limited By Our Limitations.

Here is the great news...God uses us anyway. *His work is THROUGH us but is not limited BY us!*
Because when we surrender ourselves to Him, with all of our problems, struggles, doubts, fears and insecurities, God will pour His Spirit into us, Empower us, and work through us! Just like them!

- Peter Spoke in Faith Mt 16:16
"Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Philip And Andrew Brought people to Jesus John 12:20-22
"Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus."
- Disciples saw their limitations, asked for Help Luke 17:5 (Forgiveness)
"The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
- Matthew found a way: Threw a Party Matt 9:10
"While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples."
- Simple Service Became Profound Mt 14:19
"Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people."

This is what I want you to see. With all of their limitations, Jesus used them to establish the church! He was not limited by their struggles. In fact, He helped them overcome their struggles...and used them instead. And that is what He wants to do with us. God uses REAL PEOPLE to transform the world...And we Get to be part! You are qualified JUST AS YOU ARE:

GOD DOES NOT CALL THE EQUIPPED...HE EQUIPS THE CALLED

CONCL: I want to challenge you this morning to offer yourself to God in one of THREE specific ways
 If you were captured by the message last week...and you are wondering..How can I be a part...Pick One

1. Throw a Party! I'm calling them Pit Parties: My Neighborhood: Firepit, Invite, Music, Discuss
 I will provide the firepit, 10 chairs, help coordinate music where possible, Flyers
2. Bag Of Love! Idea from Pastors: Gift Bag: Family, Neighbor, Friend, Move In, Shut In
 Assisted Living: Some simple items; Dollar store candle, Daily Bread, Card from VLC
3. Christmas Drive Through: Christmas Story in 8 or 9 Scenes: 175-200 people
 Props, Tech, Costumes, Actors, Sheep, Greeters, Traffic

TIME FOR US TO TAKE THE GOOD NEWS OUT...WE HAVE THE ANSWER...WE CAN DO IT