

December 13, 2009 AM

GOD'S AGENDA: GROWING A HEART LIKE JESUS

“Jesus said to His followers, ‘Go everywhere in the world, and tell the good news to everyone.’ (Mark 16:15, NCV)

When we started these messages we said to be on God's agenda we had to do three things: Pray, go and give. As I finish today, I want to say there is one more thing, and that is to grow. Anything that's not growing is dying! Jesus is our life and our mission for His kingdom must be our lifestyle. Over these last week's I have tried to be very basic. Our vision is to reach East Dallas County and we have always had, and currently have had huge goals. The Bible says, ***“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matt. 19:26)*** Our church has had many historic moments, but I pray they will pale in light of what God is going to do.

God blesses availability more than ability. At the age of six I gave my heart to Jesus and in my early 20's I gave my life to His mission. I have had an adventure. The same can be true of anyone. The Bible says God is looking for people whose hearts are right to show His great power in helping them. His kingdom is my priority! ***“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.” (2 Chron. 16:9)*** All God wants is a committed heart.

How to grow a heart like Jesus?

I. You must love what Jesus loved.

“Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave Himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins.” (Eph. 5:2, LB)

A. Love always calls for sacrifice.

1. John said, ***“God so loved the world...”***
2. Jesus had compassion.
3. Compassion is more than sympathy; “I’m sorry” or implying, “I hurt for you.” It says I will do anything to stop your heart. ***“Jesus was moved with compassion...”***

NOTE** Love is not simply a warm fuzzy feeling; it is action. Jesus’ love was shown symbolically; it moved Him into action. ***“When He saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

When I see the crowds I want to run the other way because I am self-focused. I make it about myself. Compassion calls for personal involvement.

B. Jesus loved the church even more.

1. The church is:
 - His body and He loved His body.
 - His bride and He loves His bride.
 - His family and He loves His family.
 - His flock and He loved His flock.
2. God’s family are people in God’s family.

“Christ loved the church and gave His life for her...”

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said He would build His church. He’s not building countries, companies or charities. His one business is the church. He said, ***“All the powers of hell will not be able to defeat it.”*** It may look like sin is winning, but it is not. His story is His story. If you are on God’s agenda you must have a growing love for His church. This ministry matters. You need to plant your lives and sow seeds of righteousness right here.

II. You must be indifferent to what Jesus is indifferent to.

A. Why? Because everything is not equally important.

1. Some things won't last five days or five years. Some 50 years, and some forever.

What will not last?

- Things in People Magazine (fads).
- This years (fashion).
- This economy (finances).

B. What was Jesus indifferent to?

1. Personal danger.
2. The opinions of people.
3. Religious traditions.

***NOTE** Jesus valued relationships more than riches. He valued people more than principles and...

4. Human timetables.
5. To politics. My kingdom is not of this world. If it was my servants would find.

Jesus did not try to revolt or reform or revise the Roman Empire. He was indifferent to it. Jesus said to a man, ***“Follow me! But the man said, ‘Lord, let me first go bury my father.’ Jesus replied, ‘Let the dead bury the dead! Instead, you go everywhere and tell about the kingdom of God’. Then another man said, ‘I’ll follow you Lord, but let me first go home to my family.” Jesus said, “Anyone who begins to plow a field but keeps looking back is of no use in the kingdom of God.”*** (Luke 9:59-62, NCV)

What was this about? Well Jesus knows the difference in real reasons and lame excuses because he knows our hearts. The issue is clear when you read this. Notice, “Lord, let me first!” You cannot say, “Lord, let me first.” That’s a contradiction.

Jesus is first or you are. You’re Lord or God is.

Our culture is self-centered and self-serving. Jesus said it’s not about you. These are eternal issues. Jesus is saying let the spiritually dead do what anyone can do, but

you be indispensable. You be a world-changer. If you have Jesus in your life, make your life count. Don't look back!

C. Two things we need to be indifferent to:

1. Jesus was indifferent to impressing others. You have to decide who you want the applause from: Your peers, parents, partners, or God.

Jesus said, ***“Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me.” (John 5:41, NLT)***

He did not allow the expectations of others dictate his actions: The possibility of rejection or the promise of praise.

2. Jesus was indifferent to getting rich.

“Life is not measured by how much one owns...” (Luke 12:15, NCV)

***NOTE** Nothing is wrong with wealth as long as you have it and it does not have you. How do you know? What God asks you to give and you can't let go of it!

- Life is not about acquisition.
- We bring nothing into life; we take nothing with us. You would think we would get it.
- The purpose of life is not about storing things up.
- Life is about preparing for eternity.

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ... So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for

tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."
(Matthew 6:25; 31-34)

- Don't spend your life collecting things you can't take with you.

III. You must get upset about what upsets Jesus.

A. We don't think about Jesus being angry.

"Be angry without sinning..."

1. Jesus often got mad, but never sinned.
2. We are almost always mad about everything except what upsets Jesus.
3. Right anger is righteous and indignation.
4. Anger is not necessarily sinning. Is it selfish or about love?

B. The cause of sinful anger:

- Frustration.
- Hurt.
- Fear.

C. Three things made Jesus mad:

1. Selling out worship for personal gain. The overturned tables in the temple because men made it a place of profit instead of a house of prayer (twice).
2. The failure of seeing children as valuable.

"People brought children to Jesus, hoping He might touch them, but the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said...'Don't push the children away! Don't ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom.'" (Mark 10:13-14, The Message)

- a. It should make us mad that children are brainwashed at school.
- b. That we have so many illegitimate parents. 25% are Anglo, 50% are Hispanic, and 65% black.

Jesus said anyone who causes the downfall of and one of these children to fall away and stumble, it would be better that a millstone be placed on your neck and thrown into the sea. (It's done all the time – sexual freedom)

- c. Abortion should make us mad.

**** If you serve in the Preschool, Children or Student Ministry, please stand.**

3. When human suffering is ignored.

Jesus said, ***“Woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them!” (Luke 11:46, NIV)***

- Right is never wrong.
- Wrong is never right.
- Love cries out of justice.

IV. We must sacrifice for what Jesus sacrificed for.

A. You are either a taker or a giver.

1. Real self-esteem does not come from what the world tells you.
 - Sex.
 - Salary.
 - Status.
2. The only thing that will really satisfy is sacrificial service.

“If you try to keep your life for yourself you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, you will find true life.” (Mark 8:35, NLT)

3. Jesus died on the cross, but in the process He:
 - Helped people get right with God. He built a bridge.
 - He poured his life into a few people.
 - He cared for the poor.
 - He healed people and delivered them.
 - He taught God's Word.

“Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.” (1 Timothy 6:18-19, LB)