**Principles of the Harvest**

*Together for the Harvest Series      October 17, 2010*

- **Sermon theme** = There are several principles of the Harvest that will help us invite people to hear of Jesus – who He is and what He has done.

**Introduction**

- Open Your Bibles to John 1
- Together for the Harvest (week 1) – A Whole-Church *Strategy* for the Harvest
- Together for the Harvest (week 2) – *Truths* of the Harvest
- **Together for the Harvest (week 3) – Principles of the Harvest**
- Together for the Harvest (week 4) – *Barriers* to the Harvest
- Dave Kistler Tent Meetings = November 7-11
- Principles = Focus on Inviters (matters of prayer for Prayers and preparation for Tellers)

**Exegesis**

- **Principle #1: Our motivation to share Jesus is directly related to our relationship with Jesus**
  - **Main passage**
  - John 1:35-41
    
    35  *The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.*
    
    36  *When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"*
    
    ✓  *"Lamb of God" = Introduction to who He is*
    
    37  *When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.*
    
    ✓  *"followed Jesus" = Decision to get to know more about Jesus*
    
    38  *Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"*
    
    39  *"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour.*
“Come...will see” = Invitation to get to know Him
“spent the day with him” = They got to know Jesus more

40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

“first thing” = Andrew tells his brother only after developing some relationship with Jesus

- Other passages
  - John 4 = Women at the Well back into town
  - Luke 8 = Demon-possessed man back into town
  - Acts 9 = Saul in Damascus
  - People without a relationship with Jesus have no motivation to share Jesus or to introduce others to Him
  - The greater the relationship the greater the motivation and the greater the sharing of Jesus with others

Principle #2: It is most natural to share with people with whom we have close, personal relationships

- Main passage
  - John 1:41-42
    41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

“find his brother Simon and tell him” = Andrew and Simon are not only brothers but business partners – they have a close relationship

42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

“brought him to Jesus” = Having started a relationship with Jesus, Andrew brings Peter to Jesus

- Other passages
  - John 4 = Women invites those she lives with in her town
  - Luke 8 = Demon-possessed shares with those in his home town
  - Acts 16 = Philippian jailor introduces Paul and Silas to his family
  - We don’t need to invent places to meet people to introduce to Jesus – we already have them in the natural relationships of our lives
The growth of Christianity comes through open social networks (Stark, *Rise of Christianity*)

Note: While these are the most natural, they can sometimes be the most difficult

**Principle #3: Many people will be excellent inviters even if they can’t effectively share the Gospel**

- **Main passage**
  - John 1:40-41
    - 40 *Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.*
    - 41 *The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).*
      - “Messiah” = He understands some of who Jesus but not all and not much of why He has come or what He will do

- **Other passages**
  - Matthew 9 = Friends of paralytic, Matthew, ruler
  - John 12 = Lazarus’ resurrection

- **“Witnessola” video**
  - We can either project and expect that every believer (regardless of growth, opportunity or enablement) should share the gospel
  - OR we can recognize the diversity of the Body of Christ and encourage each member to be involved in the Harvest as they are able (maturity, opportunity and enablement) = “Together for the Harvest” Card

**Principle #4: Successful inviting sometimes requires more than one invitation and to overcome an initial objection**

- **Main passage**
  - John 1:44-46
    - 44 *Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.*
    - 45 *Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
      - “we have found” = Introduction to Jesus
    - 46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.
✓ Can anything good come from there” = Nathanael has an objection
✓ “Come and see” = Philip persists and continues the invitation

- **Other passages**
  - John 3 = Nicodemus comes to faith later
  - James and Jude = Jesus’ own brothers comes to faith after His death and resurrection
  - Understand that multiple invitations may be necessary to address the variety of “no’s” = No, not yet; No, not now; No, not until my objections are answered
  - Illustration: Korean “no”

➤ **Principle #5: Invitations often cause chain reactions**
  - **Main passage**
    - John 1:29-49
      ✓ John the Baptist to Andrew to Peter to Pentecost to the world
      ✓ John the Baptist to Philip to Nathaniel to India or Armenia
  - **Other passages**
    - John 4 = Women at the Well to Samaria
    - Acts 11 = Cornelius to his household (to perhaps Caesar’s household)
    - Acts 16 = Lydia to her household and Philippian jailor to his household to Phillipi
    - Acts 18 = Crispus to his household to Corinth
    - Every great movement of people to Jesus began with a single person

➤ **Principle #6: Inviters need to be transparent and honest not “know-it-alls”**
  - **Main passage**
    - John 4:28-29, 39-42
      28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,
      29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"
      ✓ “Could this be the Christ?” = Be honest in what you know and don’t know
      39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."
40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

41 And because of his words many more became believers.

42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

✓ "we know this man really is the Savior of the world" = They come to understand what she knows (and even more)

○ Other passages
  o John 5 = The paralyzed man – “The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'”
  o John 9 = The blind man – “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”
  o You don’t have to know the answer to every question or all the information to introduce someone to Jesus – just invite them to someone who does

➤ Principle #7: Transparently using our personal testimony can be our most powerful tool
  ○ Main passage
    o John 4:28-29, 39
      28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,
      29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"
      39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."

✓ “everything I ever did” = She shares her personal story (the power of a story) and not just the message

○ Other passages
  o John 11-12 = Lazarus’ become a witness
  o Acts 9, 22, 26 = Paul becomes a witness
  o Your testimony (the good, the bad and the ugly) can be used as a powerful tool to invite or share Jesus with others
“My Favorite Five” Bookmark

“Together for the Harvest” Commitment Card

Response

- As disciples of Jesus Christ, we see the Harvest when people are introduced to Christ – being prayed for and invited to learn who He is and what He has done.
  - Observers = Come to Jesus
  - Disciples = Pray, invite, tell