

Lent: Celebrating the Death & Resurrection of Jesus

1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-6

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand...For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

At the heart of the Christian faith are historical events

Paul calls these historical events “the GOSPEL” (evangel)



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor Who Is Distant from Christ?

Gospel/Evangel:

News of a great historical event that dramatically changes life and calls for a response

Eg. The modern 26.2 mile marathon

Evangelism:

Retelling this historical, life changing news...calling for a response



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor Who Is Distant from Christ?

Branching Out.....Bearing Fruit A journey into BEP's future

The believing community of Jesus' followers *Branch Out...Bear Fruit* through...

- Gospel Neighboring (mercy & justice)
- Gospel Messaging (*evangelism*)

The gospel story moving from one person's life into another's
"Conversion"

Conversion: when God radically alters your life story, and Jesus becomes the center of gravity of who you are and what you are about

Future AIM: you would catch a vision for God using your life to move His story into the lives of others



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor Who Is Distant from Christ?

How does the gospel story move from one person's life into another's?????

Divine Intervention (8:26, 29)

The agency of conversion is always the Spirit of God

Relationship (8:30-31)

By particular truth that speaks to a searching heart (8:32-35)

- What's happening in this man's life??
- What happens when he arrives in Jerusalem?? (*Dt. 23:1, Is. 56:3-5*)
- Who is the prophet talking about?? (*8:32-35, Isaiah 53:7-8*)



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor who Is Distant from Christ??

The Gospel Story...the historical events and their significance

Sin is substituting yourself for God

Salvation is God substituting Himself for you

The moment you find Christ's substitutionary death & resurrection mentally compelling & heart melting, it changes the fundamental way the human heart works



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Some practical thoughts on sharing God's story in your life with others....

- You will always talk about what you treasure
- Live as an insider, cultivating the relationships God has given you
Eg. Family Camp
- Start with people's questions...people are not interested in the questions you think the gospel answers for them
- Don't just talk about religion or morality...talk about the Jesus of history
- Be relaxed...you don't have to persuade people, the Spirit does that



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor Who Is Distant from Christ?

Heavenly Father,

I pray that you would be preparing conversations for me where I can somehow relate my story & the story of Jesus to others.

May I so love you and treasure Christ, that I love my neighbor with the treasure of Christ. In Jesus Name, Amen

