

BLESS: Begin With Prayer

(1Timothy 2:1-8)

Introduction.

In his book, **The Missional Entrepreneur**, Mark Russell references a study of two teams of missionaries that went to Thailand with distinctly different missional strategies. Based on their purpose for going to Thailand, you could call one team the “blessers” and the other team, the “converters.” The “converters” went with the sole intention of converting people and evangelizing everyone around them. The “blessers” went with the intention of “blessing” people. They would say, “I’m just here to bless whoever comes my way.” or “I just want to be a blessing to the people in my community.” The study followed both teams for a couple of years and here are two interesting observations:

- **First of all**, they discovered that that the “blessers” had a greater social impact than the “converters.” This proved that the “blessers” intention of blessing the people and the community around them resulted in tremendous amounts of “social betterment and social good.”

- **Secondly**, and here is what was so surprising, they discovered that the “blessers” also had almost 50 times as

Contextualize this SERMON in the B.L.E.S.S. series

Contextualize 1 Timothy 2:1-8

As the great pioneer missionary, Paul made three “missionary journeys” described in the Bible. During his third journey, he visited the city of Ephesus. There he encounters a church that needed much discipleship and maturity.

The assignment of setting the church in order was left to Timothy. False teachers, along with other serious problems, saturated the membership. Timothy’s task is large.

Later Paul writes to Timothy a couple of letters to instruct and encourage him. They are called 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy. They contain the wisdom of a veteran church-planter to a younger church pastor.

Chapter 2 addresses the subject of worship. Prayer is at the forefront of this section of Scripture. More specifically, evangelistic praying is at the forefront.

I. The Call To Missional Praying (2:1-4)

Principle: Prayer is the key to God moving in the hearts of people.

- A) The Purpose (v. 4)
- B) The Priority (v. 1)
- C) The Scope (v. 2-3)

II. The Basis for Missional Praying (2:4-7)

Principle: Jesus sacrificial work is the basis for missional praying.

- A) Man's condition (v. 4)
- B) God's provision (v. 5)
- C) God's plan (v. 6)

III. The Conditions of Missional Praying (2:8)

Principle: We must be in right standing for missional prayers to be effective.

- A) Right standing with God (v. 8)
- B) Right standing with man (v. 8)

Conclusion

Last week, you created a list of people connected with you that you needed to B.L.E.S.S.

- 1) Pray that God would move in their hearts and you would be an influence (Engle Scale).
- 2) Pray for divine appointments.
- 3) Prayer walk.