

Just Jesus: Learning To See The Big Picture

(Colossians 1:24-2:4)

Introduction

- A) People want to be a part of something bigger than them. People want to know that their life counted for something. People want to know that somehow they made a difference.

Amid the daily routine of life we want to know that our life counts for something.

- B) The Apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Colossian church from prison. Yet, he understood that his life counted for more than his circumstances might portray.

Earlier in life, Paul was an influential man among his countrymen. He was a Pharisee or religious leader. Because of a personal encounter with God, he gave it all up to become a church planter. Now he sat in jail.

A lesser man would have questioned his circumstance. A lesser man might have regretted his decisions. A lesser man might have chunked everything and gone in a different direction.

Yet, Paul remained true to Christ, true to the gospel, and certain that he was making an eternal difference in the world. **Why?** Paul understood the bigger picture. He understood that there was more to life than eating, drinking, and sleeping. He understood THE BIGGER PICTURE!!

- B) Contextualize this sermon in the series, "Just Jesus."

- C) Contextualize Colossians 1:24-2:4.

The lesson text includes Paul's personal defense of his ministry to both the Colossians and the false teachers. Remember, Paul was imprisoned which caused some to question the integrity of his ministry.

While defending his ministry, Paul reveals important truths that will help you and I get the "big picture" of what God is doing in our lives. Paul reveals the key to transforming our life into a ministry.

I. Look Beyond Your Circumstance.

Principle: We must look beyond our present circumstance in order to see the good God is doing through us for the Kingdom.

A) Suffering for the Colossians (v. 24)

B) Suffering for the gospel (v. 24)

C) Suffering for the cause of Christ in general (v. 24)

Note: We are self-centered people by nature. We must look beyond the “why is this happening (to me)” and ask how is God going to use this situation for His kingdom.

Note: Paul did not want to know “*what is in it for me*”, but rather how can I give, what can I do, how can I serve . . .

II. Live Your True Mission

Principle: *Your purpose on earth is to reveal the mystery of Christ to those that you encounter daily.*

A) Personal calling (v. 25)

B) Purposeful calling (v. 25-28)

(The mystery is that God desire to make our hearts his home.)

C) Empowered calling (v. 29)

III. Stay Focused on The Task

Principle: While the enemy will attempt to distract you from you mission, you must remain firm in your calling.

A) Danger of False Teachers (v. 1-4)

B) Danger of Life Circumstance (v. 5)

Conclusion

Ask Paul, “what keeps you going?” Answer is Just Jesus.

Ask Paul, “what gives life meaning?” Answer is Just Jesus.

Ask Paul, “what do I need to make my life a ministry?” Answer is Just Jesus.