

We haven't met before but...

## OBJECTIVE

1. To get an overview of Person/People of peace as mentioned in Luke 10.
2. To understand the remaining 7 parts of the 8.
3. To understand how we respond differently in different relationships.

## PODCAST OVERVIEW

Bullet points from Bob Hopkins material.

1. Person of Peace and the role of loving discernment (Perception).
2. Passing and/or Permanent relationships.
3. Presence and Proclamation.
4. Preparation and Power.

### 1. Person of Peace (see previous material)

***Building on the welcome received from the person of peace.***

### 2. Perception (Loving discernment)

I have found a welcome. But is it a two way relationship?

- Serving is two way, Jesus describes it as a two way relationship in Luke 10.
- Loving interaction.

Mark 12v34 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God' Jesus in process of loving discernment.

- Where is this person in their journey, far away or close?
- Are they moving or stuck?
- Have they a hungry heart? Ask the spirit to show you where the person is at on their journey.

1 Peter 3v15 'Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is within you'. The second part is the HOW we do this... with gentleness and respect.

- Respect the person as an individual and respect how God is dealing with them so you respond in an appropriate way that is helpful to them in their journey.
- Patience is key to gentleness and respect. To go at their speed and their agenda rather than our own agenda.

The parable of the sower. As well as explaining the bad soil. Jesus says what makes good soil good. Good soil outcomes.

Matthew 13v23 A full understanding.

- Does this person have a full understanding of the gospel and how it affects their life?

- Do they know its benefits and challenges and costs?

Luke 8v15 An honest and good heart.

- How is God preparing their heart?
- Have they experienced the goodness of God to help them understand? Head and Heart.
- To have opportunity for God to work.

### 3. Passing or (4.) Permanent relationships.

We have built relationships but not all relationships are the same. Relationships are on a spectrum. At one end **passing relationships** and at the other **permanent relationships**.

Passing relationships are defined by frequency, length of contact and depth.

Permanent relationships has the addition that they are also defined by trust.

#### Can I think of places and people who are passing/permanent relationships and people of peace?

How we respond to a passing person will be different to how we respond to a permanent relationship, both will be with gentleness and respect.

Reasons.

- In a passing relationship we can be more direct.
- It might be the only opportunity we get.
- Our words are the seeds we sow. Being bold is appropriate and is not a threat.
- They can take it or leave it.
- It doesn't effect the trust aspect.
- in a permanent relationship our lifestyle and values may speak louder than words.
- Not to contradict testimony.
- In a permanent relationship (Trust bridge), **they** set the pace, progress, invitation, permission.
- It doesn't mean we cannot share but if we give it all in one go it might be too much.
- A bridge has a breaking strain. Am I being appropriate to the trust available?

### 5. Proclamation, *the words we share* and (6.) Presence, *who and how we are to be with.*

#### Appropriate and direct Words

- Our own story/Elements of the gospel/Reference to the bible/Written or spoken.
- Need to be sensitive (see trust bridge), discerning and appropriate (especially in a Permanent relationship).
- Romans 10 v 14 Be confident.
- Presence (lifestyle) Values and choices we make that lead to dialogue in the context of questions. Much of the gospel accounts are built around questions people had for or by Jesus.

**Loving service. Recognise and respond to needs.** *'Beyond the good samaritan' book (Ann Morisy)* <http://amzn.eu/d/cpnaBxu>

- In today's culture where people can be resistant to our sharing absolute truth, they might be open to our story/truth ministered through our experience. People of peace may be open to some Kingdom activity, for example, meeting local need or social transformation. They might be as concerned about needs as you are. God may have put in them Kingdom instincts. Respond to need WITH them rather than for them.
- Many people in society respond to deep inner need by accumulating more or spending more in order to meet need. Consume something to meet a need, this can numb awareness to the spiritual needs that are present.
- To take people out of comfort zone may leave them open to new ways to see things or respond to their own need differently especially as they get time to be around or alongside Christians to watch, to hear, to observe spiritual life and activity.
- John 13 v 35 Its by Love they know a Christian. That loving service is powerful.

**Involving them in our lives. Be willing to ask for help.** *Matthew 10 and Luke 10*

- Allowing others to give to us/meet our need.
- Giving and receiving creates openness.
- Two way relationship.
- The life we live and not just the words we share.

**In permanent relationship. 'Salting principle'**

- A small amount of salt makes them thirsty. A lot of salt makes them sick. Listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Sensitive to where they are and being appropriate.

## **7. Power and (8.) Preparation**

Preparation is our work. Power is God's work.

- Prayer is the foundation to all of this and unlocks God's power.
- If we are working with people of peace... and asking discernment questions (where are they on their journey) then prayer will be the power that deals with this.
- Prayer is God's 'zip factor' (when his power can break in through us) might be a crisis, a change of job, the birth of a child. Various things can be doorways to the power of God.
- Prayer is our persistence and commitment.
- It might be a dream in the person of peace or you have a prophetic word for them. God might give you a word for either a passing person or a permanent relationship.
- Another example might be healing that opens the door to a spiritual conversation. We want to see God release his power and most especially when people have become stuck, (example of rich young ruler). Prayer for person of peace.
- Praying releases God's power, ask God to intervene, to release his power.

## WHAT NEXT?

You can use the notes here or your own notes in one of two ways.

The notes can be the raw material that you use to fill in the mind heart worksheet (available to download from the reunion website).

OR

Use your own notes (or the ones above) to be the base material to identify what it has stirred in you and what your response is.

Either way. In your group we are not looking for your agreement or disagreement points to the teaching resource.

1. We are looking to hear what it stirred in you (it might be fear or faith based!).
2. Is there anything in it or in your reaction that you need to incorporate into life or respond to in a practical way?
3. What next?

It isn't always a case that we action plan everything we hear, sometimes a commitment looks like a change of attitude or acknowledging a change in thinking.

*If this week's material can be acted on then I'd strongly encourage you to do that. That may not be in the next week but in the next month/next year.*

**If this is the case, what 4 or 5 actions do you think you need to move towards. Avoid vagueness and avoid the grandly impossible!**

## REUNION GATHERED

The space that reunion creates needs to be;

1. **Welcome.** A sense that you and the others belong.
2. **Safe.** Otherwise who'd ever take a risk. Practice confidentiality.
3. **Significant.** God's call on you and on the others is significant. Your time and presence is valuable so speak and do the things that come from or arrive into that which is significant. Treat everyone as present even if they can't be with you.

## EXTRA TO THE PODCAST

1. Do you understand? If not ask, either in your group or get in contact with Neville.
2. As time goes by on reunion you will be reaching moments where you know what you next need to do in mission and evangelism. Self commitment is tough and often withers from pressure or distraction so who in your reunion community can you ask to check in with you? It won't always be the same person, it's the one who resonates with your 'action plan'. They don't hold you accountable, you hold yourself accountable. They are there to challenge you when you don't bother with your commitment, to call you on

when it feels to hard. To laugh with you when it goes wrong. To pray for you throughout. Time bound it so it isn't a for life thing!

3. If committing to an action what are your 4 or 5 next steps. The best way to write these and share them is to think what will it look like so I know it is happening?
4. Paul in Acts 15 describes a decision as seeming good to them and to the Holy Spirit. Keep checking in, teasing things out with your reunion community and with God.