

“Influencers”

August 28, 2016

CORE: As we move increasingly into our role as INFLUENCERS, here are some CONVICTIONS permeating our hearts-

- “Church” is much more than a meeting you “go to”—it’s a people you “go with” to transform the world.
- ALL OF US are a vital part of this move of God on the earth. We are ALL leaders & influencers—the “head, not the tail” (Deut. 28:13).
- What moves us is much more than a passion to see something happen., but a PERSON—Jesus Christ—One who is amazingly personal with a highly infectious personality.
 - *“The infinite life of God himself took shape before us. We saw it, we heard it, and now we’re telling you so you can experience it along with us—this experience of communion with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. Our motive for writing is simply this: We want you to enjoy this, too.” (1 John 1:2-4 The Message)*

HEAR HIS HEART: Matthew 9:35-38 NIV

Jesus went thru all the cities [walled cities of size & significance RE: culture, commerce, government] and villages [where field workers lived]:

- **Teaching** (*imparting life-changing truth by training & modeling*) i.e., *“learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me” Phil. 4:9*
- **Preaching** (*declaring truth, calling them to radical obedience*)
- **Healing every disease & weakness**
- **He saw the crowds** (*He looked into them; Lit.- “observing with attentive discernment”*)
 - *“Fainted/harassed”- Lit.- “falling apart internally”*
 - *“Scattered”- Lit.- “Demeaned, abused, and rejected so frequently that they trusted no one”*

After He had taught them (imparting His life to them), declared truth over them, and healed them, He cried:

“Send out PERPETRATORS & INFLUENCERS!!!”

NOTE: From the Latin word *“patrare”* → *“to perform or accomplish in the capacity of a father/mother” (i.e., to perpetuate; have long-term influence)*

WHY???

- The harvest is plenteous (*“Measureless in size & eagerness”*)
- The laborers/perpetrators/influencers are few (*“Small in number & intensity”*)

2 MARKS OF INFLUENCERS: SEE ROMANS 8:17 NIV

1. SHARE IN HIS SUFFERINGS

- **Perpetrators** (full of great faith, deep compassion, & radical obedience)→ **attract His presence...AND also attract misunderstanding, accusation, persecution, & opposition.**
- Acts 3 & 4- Healing of a lame man- **miracles are an “act of kindness” (4:9)**- got them a trial, a beating, and an imprisonment...as well as 5,000 more people coming to Jesus!
- **Press thru the opposition for even greater breakthrough!!!**
- **Obedience attracts opposition.**
 - Matt. 13:21- “trouble or persecution comes **because of the Word.**”
 - “The word of the Lord **tested Joseph.**” (Psalm 105:19)
- Acts 4:25-31 they made 2 clear requests of our Father-
 - **“Give us more boldness”** (NOTE: They were already “bold” (4:13)
 - **“Stretch out your hand to heal!”** (i.e., “Do even more!” of the things that got us into trouble in the 1st place)

NOTE: Persevering in midst of opposition—prepares us to carry even more of His glory! (There can be pain in the promotion!)

2. SHARE IN HIS GLORY.

NOTE: It’s not just about more miracles...it’s about **more of His glory - (increasing sense of His tangible nearness—Lit.- “weight”)!**

- **Rabbis screened their disciples before calling them.**
 - **Age 6 to 10:** memorized the Torah
 - **Age 10-15:** memorized Genesis thru Malachi
 - **Age 15 to 20:** Only the “best of the best” were offered to “**take the yoke**” of the rabbi (i.e., become like him)
- **Those who accepted the rabbi’s offer, left their families & their family trade**→ to **become like their rabbi**
- **Jesus called those who had been rejected by other rabbis; they were seen as “unschooled and ordinary men” (Acts 4:13)**
- **When Jesus said- “Follow Me!”** He was saying- **“You can be like Me!” (i.e., He believed in them)**
- **When Peter sank while walking on the water, Jesus said-** “Why did you doubt? (“...that you could be **like Me???**”)
- **When Jesus left, He said**→ “Go, make other disciples (who live like I live)”

We are part of a long line of influencers—perpetrating His Kingdom of Love!