

NAMELESS

Changing the World Without Being Famous

Edited by: Justin Morton

Something To Think About

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Editor



Justin Morton is the Student and Family Minister at the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN. He is married to the beautiful Miranda Morrison Morton and they have two awesome sons, Caden and Cameron.

He is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University with both, a Bachelor of Arts and Master Degrees. Justin is the director of the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies Leadership Camp held each year in June.

Other Books by Justin:

Against All Odds

Help! Someone I Love Has Died

How Great Is Our God

LABELS: Seeing As God Sees

Wisdom for Life: A Study of Proverbs

WASTED: The Life of Solomon

STAND OUT: God Didn't Create You To Just Fit In

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**Looking for Opportunities to Change the World:
The Early Christians (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37)**

Speaker: Demetrius Desnoes

Introduction

- A. “If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change” (William Dyer).
- B. As the salt of the earth, we must seek to influence the world (Matthew 5:13-16).
- C. The motivation for improving the world must come second to improving oneself.
- D. We have been given a great example from the early Christians that proves change is possible.

A Faithful People (Acts 2:42-44; 4:32-33)

- A. Giving earnest heed to the Gospel was a consistency for members of the early church (Acts 2:42).
- B. An implication of the apostles’ doctrine is that unity and kindness were concepts taught by them.
- C. We do not have a testimony of Jesus’ resurrection but we can spread what is written (Acts 4:33).
- D. The early church contained believers who were united because of their commonality (Acts 2:44).

A Selfless People (Acts 2:45-47; 4:34-35)

- A. Christianity involves adopting the mind of Christ by becoming more selfless (Philippians 2:1-5).
- B. The early Christians were giving toward one another, which allowed them to succeed (Acts 2:45).
- C. The plurality found in the text indicates that selflessness was a collective practice (Acts 4:34-35).
- D. Our lifestyle and fellowship with Christians can serve as a standard for the world (1 John 1:7).

A Nameless People (Acts 4:36-37)

- A. Apostles gave Joseph the name “Son of Encouragement” because it described him (Acts 4:36).
- B. Does the way we view ourselves correlate with the characterization others have of us?
- C. When our motivation is to please the Lord, our ambition for glory will dissipate (Matthew 5:16).
- D. The application of Barnabas’ actions provides us with the means to reach the world (Acts 4:37).

Conclusion

- A. It is vital for the Christian to lay aside selfish ambitions in order to accomplish change within self.
- B. As a group we have a better chance of achieving the purpose of influencing the world.
- C. God is to receive the glory for our efforts and we should desire for Him to reward us, not man.
- D. The name on the back of my jersey is not as important as the team I represent!

Changing the World One Small Act of Kindness at a Time:

Naaman's Wife's Servant (2 Kings 5)

Speaker: Tyler Binkley (Boys Devotional)

Introduction

- A. We live in a world today that teaches that real change is brought about by how popular you are.
- B. We are taught that the greatest impact is brought about by the person who is the most popular or has the greatest following on social media.
- C. However, from a spiritual standpoint, this is not the case. Consider Jesus when He washed His disciples' feet.
- D. This morning, we are going to examine Naaman's Wife's Servant who did a small act of kindness that ultimately led to a man being healed.

The Girl who was a Captive.

- A. She was taken from her family.
- B. She was brought to a new place that she did not know.
- C. She was brought to a new people she did not know.
- D. She was a part of God's plan.

The Girl who was a Slave.

- A. She served Naaman's Wife.
- B. She had to follow the orders of her master.
- C. She did not hold a grudge against her master.

The Girl who had the Answer.

- A. She informs Naaman's wife about who could heal her master.
- B. She cared for her master.
- C. She demonstrated kindness to her master which ultimately led to his healing.
- D. She was able to show her master that God still existed in Israel.

Conclusion

- A. Naaman's Wife's servant spoke up in a time when her master needed assistance.
- B. Despite the way she had been treated, she was able to show kindness toward him.

- C. May we as Christians today learn from this story and see how important it is for us to show kindness to others.
- D. By showing kindness to others, we will be able to change the world one act of kindness at a time.

Changing the World One Small Act of Kindness at a Time:

Naaman's Wife's Servant (2 Kings 5)

Speaker: Miranda Morton (Girls Devotional)

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever had someone come into your life at just the right moment?
- B. Sometimes we can walk into people's lives at just the right time; just when they need someone the most.
- C. Have you ever had someone tell you that you came into their life at just the right time?

Everyone has Problems (2 Kings 5:1)

- A. Naaman was a mighty warrior who was highly regarded by his master because he was a successful military leader. But Naaman had an awful skin condition known as leprosy.
- B. Naaman's life would be difficult on several different fronts. He would be separated from his family and also his men. He was isolated from normal day to day living. Additionally, leprosy can be painful and potentially cause him to lose his life.

Everyone needs Kindness (2 Kings 5:2-4).

- A. Despite Naaman's physical and social success as a military leader, Naaman had a problem, and he couldn't fix it himself.
- B. In Matthew 25:34-40 Jesus tells us we will encounter others with needs. We are surrounded by people who need physical help (food, clothing, care) and also emotional or spiritual blessings (acceptance, visitation, compassion).

One Small Act

- A. A young girl was brought out of Israel to serve as a slave to Naaman's wife.
- B. From her time in Israel, this young lady knew of the prophet Elisha and his ability to heal physical infirmities.
- C. The servant girl could have stayed quiet and out of the way; she could have assumed someone of Naaman's stature wouldn't believe her, a lowly servant.

- D. Instead the slave girl decided to reach out to Naaman and let her master know about Elisha and his ability to perform miracles. She gave him the information he needed to change his life.

Whose Life Can You Change?

- A. We are surrounded by people like Naaman, people who are good, successful and respected, but who find themselves in the midst of problems.
- 1) They are infected with the life altering disease of sin (Rom. 3:23).
 - 2) If not treated properly, this disease will cost them their lives (Rom. 6:23).
- B. Who is the Naaman in your life who needs your small act of kindness?
- 1) Meeting a physical or emotional need often opens doors of opportunity to minister to spiritual needs. Showing someone you care about her can change her life!
 - 2) Luke 4:27 says, “And there were **many** lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and **none** of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”
 - 3) Why were none of them cleansed? Perhaps no one pointed them to the right source of healing.
- C. The servant girl did not have the ability to heal Naaman, but she did have knowledge which would change his life.

Conclusion:

- A. Micah 6:8 says, “He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
- B. How can you change someone’s life with one small act of kindness?

A Blessing of Small Proportions
Karns Members Who Have Been Blessed by Small Acts of Kindness
Speaker: David Baldwin and Various Members (Video Interviews)

Introduction

- A. What does the word influence mean?

- B. Do you have to be famous to have an influence?

- C. Does being famous mean you will always have a good influence?

Who was it that influenced Gary's spiritual life? When did this take place in Gary's life?

Who was it that influenced Conrad's spiritual life? When did this take place in Conrad's life?

Who was it that influenced Tony's spiritual life? When did this take place in Tony's life?

Who was it that influenced Dave's spiritual life? When did this take place in Dave's life?

Conclusion

- A. We don't have to be famous to have a great influence on the people around us.

- B. We can be an influence to people at any stage of their lives, we just have to care enough to be that influence (Matt. 5:13-16).

- C. We need to get out of our comfort zones and go be an influence on those around us.

**I Am Not Nameless - Ways We Can Serve:
Aspiring to be Elders, Deacons, Ministers and Servants
Speaker: Tony Williams (Boys Class)**

What comes to mind when you think of famous?

What are some common traits in a person who wants to be famous?

How would these traits apply to those in the church?

- A. The parable of the wedding feast.
- B. Luke 14:7-11
- C. What lesson does this teach?

How would these traits apply to elders?

- A. Elders are not to think too highly of themselves (I Tim 3:6).
- B. Elders are not to exercise those traits (I Peter 5:3).
- C. Elders are to humbly serve.

How are we to react to these traits?

- A. Philippians 2:3-5
- B. Luke 6:27-36

**I Am Not Nameless - Ways We Can Serve:
Women in the Church and How they Can Contribute
Speaker: Destiney McAdams (Girls Class)**

Introduction

- A. Why do we have names?
- B. What meanings do our names have that our parents gave us?
- C. What does it mean to carry the name of Christian?
- D. John 15:15-16, Col. 3:12-17

God > Me

- A. John 3:30; Matt. 6:19-21, 24, Matt. 6:33; Matt 16:24
- B. How we can let God's light shine brighter than our own light?

Where Do I Fit In/ What Can I do?

- A. Rom. 16:1-5; Titus 2:3-5; Acts 18:24-28; Joshua 2; Luke 10:38-42
- B. Teaching women and children, hosting, Ladies Days, being a Godly wife, etc.
- C. Phoebe, Aquila and Priscilla, Rahab, Mary and Martha, Esther

Conclusion:

- A. There are ways to contribute to the church for everyone.
- B. Everyone's talents are different, but that doesn't mean your contributions means any less than another's.
- C. Put God first always, it's about Him and serving Him.
- D. Remember the meaning and be proud to carry the name Christian.

Changing the World One Person at a Time:

Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:24-28)

Speaker: Gregg Woodall

Introduction

- A. When Paul left Ephesus on his second missionary... Aquila and Priscilla stayed behind (Acts 18:18-19).
- B. They hosted a church in their home (1Cor. 16:19).
- C. Aquila and Priscilla were responsible for converting Apollos.
- D. The conversion of Apollos offers an important lesson or two on how we might be more effective in our own evangelistic efforts today.

Apollos, the Prospect

- A. His Background (Acts 18:24)
 - 1. He was a Jew -
 - 2. Born at Alexandria -
 - 3. Well educated, "an eloquent man" -
- B. His Abilities
 - 1. Mighty (powerful, competent) in the Scriptures/Old Testament (Acts 18:24).
 - 2. Instructed in the way of the Lord (Acts 18:25).
 - 3. Fervent in spirit; lit., "to boil in the spirit", enthusiasm
 - 4. Taught accurately the way of the Lord Acts (18:25).
 - 5. Though he knew only the baptism of John (Acts 18:25).

[With such knowledge, eloquence, and enthusiasm, Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue at Ephesus (Ac 18:26). Listening to him were two people, husband and wife...]

Aquila and Priscilla, the Teachers

- A. Their Background
 - 1. Husband and wife, Jews expelled from Rome (Acts 18:1-2).
 - 2. With whom Paul stayed in Corinth, working together as tentmakers (Acts 18:3).
 - 3. Traveled with Paul from Corinth to Ephesus, and stayed there (Act 18:18-19).
 - 4. Hosted a church in their home in Ephesus (1Cor. 16:19).
 - 5. At some point risked their lives for Paul (Rom. 16:3-4).
 - 6. Later in Rome, hosting a church in their house (Rom. 16:3-5).

7. Mentioned in Paul's last epistle, shortly before his death, back in Ephesus (2Tim. 4:19)

B. Their Method (Acts 18:26)

1. They attended the synagogue.
2. They heard Apollos speak.
3. They took him aside.
4. They kindly explained to Apollos the way of God more accurately.

[Aquila and Priscilla were successful in leading Apollos to a more accurate understanding of the way of God. With that understanding, the highly educated, fervent Jew from Alexandria became...]

Apollos, the Minister

A. His Success at Corinth

1. Endorsed by brethren at Ephesus, he went to Corinth (Acts 18:27).
2. He greatly helped those who believed through grace (Acts 18:27).
3. Apollos "vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ." (Acts 18:28; cf. Ac 17:3).
4. As Paul wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered..." (1Cor. 3:5-6).

B. The Problem at Corinth

1. Division because of "preacher-itis" involved Apollos (1Cor. 1:10-12).
2. Paul diagnosed such "preacher-itis" as carnality (1Cor. 3:4).
3. In no way did Paul impugn Apollos with causing the problem.
4. Those who identified themselves with Apollos may have been swayed by his eloquence.

Conclusion

- A. Aquila and Priscilla were caring and kind enough to be successful in the conversion of Apollos.
- B. Apollos became a great help to Paul as mentioned in his epistle to Titus (Tit 3:13).
- C. Have you explained to others the way of God more accurately? Are you willing to let others explain to you the way of God more accurately?
- D. We can all learn from this lesson and challenge ourselves to be active in "Changing the World One Person at a Time."

Changing the World Even When Others Think You Can't:

The Boy Who Shared His Lunch

John 6:1-15

Speaker: Todd Monahan

A Christian's Responsibility to Others

- A. Adjusting our plans and turning disappointments into opportunities for good
 - 1. Acts 10:38 – Jesus went about doing good
 - 2. 1Cor. 11:1 – Paul writes, “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ
 - 3. Prov. 3:27, Gal. 6:10, – while we have opportunity, do good
- B. Ready to serve
 - 1. Heb. 6:10 – He will not forget the love you have shown Him in helping others
 - 2. Matt. 23:11 – The greatest is your servant

Hope for the Hopeless

- A. Hopeless
 - 1. John 6:7 – Impossibility and Phillip's pessimism
 - 2. Psalm 13:1,2 – David's heavy heart
 - 3. Psalm 23:4 – The valley of the shadow of death
- B. Hope
 - 1. Psalm 34:18 – The Lord comforts
 - 2. Rev. 21:4 – No more tears or sorrow
 - 3. 1 Cor. 2:9 – Divine Preparation for the faithful

Jesus Gives and Sustains Life

- A. Jesus feeds 5,000 men, over 15,000 people in all (Matt. 14:21)
- B. Bread came from Heaven

You Can Change the World

- A. Acts 17:6 – The apostles turned the world upside down.
- B. The young boy used his resources/talents and the manifestation was something impossible without faith.
- C. Isaiah 6:8 – Here am I, send me
- D. Phil. 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”