Love Your Neighbor

Kim Holet

Consider Kim’s story about the extra drink at Starbucks. The Holy Spirit prompted her, “***You have an abundance*** of coffee, and I want you to share it with someone”

Live on mission

* God wants us to be on mission with Him as we go about our daily lives.
  + He wants us to be ready to take opportunities that He gives to us in our everyday going.
* **Mobilization**: the organization of ready people for action.
  + Mobilization is a military term. It describes troops that are equipped, trained, ready and organized. At a moment’s notice, the troops are ready to go and do what they have been trained to do.
  + Just like military troops, a disciple should be equipped, trained, ready and organized, so that we are ready when God calls us into mission with Him.
* God often calls us into mission with him in our everyday lives as we go through our normal routines.

What is a ready person?

* Ephesians 6:15: “…and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”
  + This references Isaiah 52:7: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”
  + We are called to be the messengers of good news
* “Readiness pertains to all of life. Knowledge of the gospel should make people alert and ready for life. Christians have been taught in the school of Christ. They’re careful about their speech and actions. They do not live in the dark. They live wisely, redeeming the time and understanding the will of the Lord. Such people not only share the good news, but they are also agents of peace and love, ready to do the whole will of God.” - The NIV application commentary
* We must be ready to live as light and salt in the world in whatever God calls us to do. All of our lives must be submitted to Him, so that people see God through us.
* Scriptural examples about being ready:
  + 1 Peter 3:15 (give answer for the reason for your hope)
  + 1 Cor. 9:24 (run the race to win prize)
  + Matt. 25:1-13 (for Christ’s return)
  + Romans 14:12 & Hebrews 4:13 (give account of our lives)
  + Romans 12:1-2 & Luke 12:42-48 (to know God’s will and do it)
  + 1 Peter 2:21, Ephesians 5:1-2 & John 13:12-17 (to follow Christ’s example)
  + Matt. 28:18-20 & Proverbs 22:17-18 (ready to teach & obey)
  + 1 Cor.3:1-4 & Ephesians 4:11-16 (ready to mature)
  + Phil. 1:29, 2 Tim. 2:3, James 5:10 (ready to suffer)

What are we ready for?

* We are called to be ready and prepared to join God on mission to give repeated opportunities to hear and see the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  + The action is repeated opportunities
  + We join God in helping the gospel to be seen and Christ to be known.
* The gospel will move in and through relationships.
* Everything we do when we think about mobilization needs to be tied to relationship.

Live as mobilized disciples

1. Be aware

* Ask the question: who is around me?
* The gospel moves through people and relationships
* Know who it is that is dwelling around you where you are.
* Application:
  + Pray before going into a store and ask God to show you if there is someone He wants you to talk to, encourage, or recognize
  + Go for prayer walk. Who’s in your neighborhood? Recognize who has pets, children, who’s out walking, who isn’t. Be aware of the opportunity for relationships in your own neighborhood.
  + Get good at asking questions.
    - Learn how to connect with people by getting to know them and asking them questions.
  + Be in the same place multiple times in a row. Get to know the people there.
    - What wait staff is there?
    - What local people/regulars are there?

1. Be ready to speak

* When talking with someone, what truth does God want you to share?
* What biblical understanding can you take and press into the conversation at that moment in time?
* Take biblical principles from scripture and apply them to conversations
* Application:
  + What truth needs to be heard?
  + What encouragement can you give someone?
  + How can you pray for someone?
  + Share your grace story. Let people know how you came into a relationship with Christ.
  + Be ready to share the gospel.
    - Know how to tell the story of Christ

1. Be ready to bless

* Ask: how can I show abundant love and bless the people around me?
* Giving out of an abundance.
* We bless and love others because we have been blessed and loved.

1. Be ready to serve

* Consider: how can I serve the people that are around me? What is a need I see that I can meet?
* Ask: how can I help? Is there a need?
* Application:
  + Ask: how can I help? Is there a need?
    - Mow a lawn, clear a sidewalk of snow, bring a meal over to a neighbor.

***We need to be good at starting, developing, and keeping relationships so we can earn the right to share the gospel with others.***

Resources

* *Positively Irritating: Embracing a Post-Christian World to Form a More Faithful and Innovative Church –* Jon Ritner
* *Surprise the World*: *The Five Habits of Highly Missional People -* Mike Frost
* *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* – Rosaria Butterfield
* *Loving Your Community* – Stephen Viars