

## *Don't Just Do Something, Sit There!*

### I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. **Taking Off The Gloves Conf:** 4 Topics: Where is God when life is hard or disappointing? What causes a David to charge a Goliath? How do I face real fears? How do I resist the temptation to just skate by?
- B. **Slide#2 H.S. Kosovo Team:** Donuts & *Breakfast Croissant Sandwiches*.
- C. **Slide#3-5 Justice Matters:** Workshops.
- D. **Slide#6 Prayer:** As this month is **HT awareness month**, we pray for those who don't have a voice (maybe because of *poverty, organized crime, profitability, or demand*). As today also is **Sanctity of life Sunday**, teach us to love our unborn neighbor. Father forgive r nation for we know what we do.

### II. **Intro:**

- A. **Slide#7<sub>auto</sub> Notice so far:** We need Jesus in our **lives** (repent & believe; 14,15), in our **sights** (Follow me; 16-20); in our **church** (synagogue; 21-28). **And Today we'll see we need Him...**in our **homes** (29-31); in our **cities** (32-34); in our **quiet time** (35-39); in our **deserted places** (40-45).
- B. **Slide#7<sub>blast</sub> After church what do you do?** Sunday Brunch!!!
  - 1. **Slide#8<sub>a,b,c</sub>** They march right outside of the synagogue & right into Peter's house(explain)
    - a) **3 Pictures:** #1 synagogues front door; #2 distance from Peters house to syn; #3 Pete's house

### III. **Slide#9 JESUS LOVES MOTHER-IN-LAW'S! (29-31)**

- A. Here was a home loved by Jesus, near to Jesus, & yet *sickness* came.
- B. He was promptly told that Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed **burning with a fever**.
  - 1. **In compassionate response**, Jesus stood beside her and w/o a word simply grasped her hand and raised her up.
  - 2. **The fever left completely**, and without weakness she began to **serve** her guests.
- C. **Peter's house became a place of healing for the whole city!**
  - 1. How important it is for us to **"take Jesus home with us"** after we have worshiped.
  - 2. **The Lord met the need in the home, then used the home to meet the needs of others**

### IV. **Slide#10 SATURDAY NIGHT FEVERS! (32-34)**

- A. **And the whole city was gathered together at the door.**
  - 1. The crowds did not come **until** the Sabbath had ended *because of religious tradition*.
- B. Mark made a distinction between those **diseased and** those who were **demon-possessed**.
  - 1. While some **physical affliction** may be caused by *demons* (Lk.13:10-17), not every **disease** is *demonic* in origin.

C. How did they get there? (vs.32) “They brought to Him...”

1. Some couldn't have made it to Jesus unless someone **brought them!**
  - a) We need to go to *our cities* & bring Jesus to them, **or** bring them to Jesus!
  - b) We need to go to *the sin-sick* & bring them to Him!
  - c) **Slide#11 In my Fathers net are many meshes. If it were not so I would have told you so.**
    - (1) These are sweet **meshes** of **grace**. Every nylon strand in perfect place for one purpose...to catch fish!
      - (a) “*You catch em, He'll clean em!*”

V. **Slide#12 DONT JUST DO SOMETHING, SIT THERE! (35-39)**

A. **Slide#13 Don't Just Do Something, Sit There!** (35)

B. Most of us our too busy to stop & do nothing. We feel like we need to be active every minute of the day. We confuse busy-ness with being productive, successful, efficient, effective and meaningful. **Let's admit it...**prayer just doesn't feel **busy** or **active** enough! Busy makes us feel worth while. If we're not doing something it makes us feel we are feel lazy, or that we're wasting our time.

1. **Slide#14 A generation or two ago, the life of the family was going to be revolutionized by the automatic washing machine. Until then, washing the family's laundry literally took an entire day.** People referred to 1 day of their weekly routine as **wash day**.
2. Then technology came through with the washing machine, and you could throw the clothing into a machine, and then leave it and go do something else. **What a time saver.** [note on pic: saves “nerves”! - ‘blue Monday’]
  - a) **So what happened? Did we get more time to relax? No,** we filled our time w/other duties.
3. **The computer was the same way.** It enables us to do more of our work in a lot less time. **But do we get off work early? No.** We simply do more work. **We live in a Martha world!**

C. So it comes as a surprise to read Mark and to find Jesus, **not** being **so busy with life**. In fact, in the midst of *a very busy time in his life*, He sneaks off to a solitary place and prays.

D. **Now in the morning** - After a full day of ministry & long into the evening...**If ever a time to sleep in, or at least hit the snooze alarm a ½ doz times...THIS was surely the morning!**(Nope vs.35)

E. **Jesus did not allow the demands of the day rob Him of the time needed to renew His strength.**

1. **In the stillness of the morning. In a solitary place.** He poured out his heart to God the Father.
2. In the Lord's **service** you cannot “**run on empty**”!
  - a) He knew, “**to give out you must take in!**”

3. In Jesus **outward** life we notice **waves** were always **breaking** over him; **but inwardly** He was **a sea of glass!**

F. **Slide#15 Explain:** project at Fullerton J.C. for photography.

1. Homemade shoe box camera/Pin Hole Camera (taped a piece of bare film on the back of the box – made a swing door on the opposite side). I shot an old Victorian house.
2. The longer I held the little swing door open...**the longer the exposure...**the clearer **the image** burnt onto my film.
3. **Slide#16**<sup>[delayed blast]</sup> E. Stanley Jones once described **prayer** as “a time exposure to **God**”...& thus my analogy.
  - a) **The longer we are exposed to God, the more we will bear His image!**

G. “Though Jesus was God, He did not live His life as God apart from the Father, but rather as a man in dependence upon God.”<sup>1</sup>

1. Jesus wants us to follow His example. **A Godly life full of power.**
2. **Praying w/o ceasing** is not an excuse for not having an **actual time** of **private prayer!**
  - a) **We need to find/make times to get away w/Him!** – Get up early. Get away from distractions. It may be your dining room table. Your backyard. The Santa Rosa Plateau. A run. **But somewhere, you can find Him, sit with Him, connect with Him.**
  - b) Reflection, meditation, prayer & communion with God. **It’s recharging your spiritual batteries.**
  - c) In Mrs. Lettie Cowman’s book, *Springs in the Valley*, she shares a tale from African colonial history: **It was a century or more ago that in the deep jungles of Africa, a traveler was making a long trek. Natives of the area were hired to carry the loads. The first day they **marched rapidly** and **went far**. The traveler had high hopes of a speedy journey. **But** the second morning these jungle tribesmen refused to move. For some strange reason they just **sat** and **rested**. When asked about the reason for this strange behavior, the traveler was informed that they had gone too fast the first day, and that they were now **Slide#17 waiting for their souls to catch up with their bodies.**<sup>2</sup>**

(1) **Slide#18** Ps.23:1-3 MSG **God, my shepherd! I don’t need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.**

3. **Slide#19** Try scheduling time alone w/God at the **beginning** of the day!

- a) Ps.119:147 **I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; I hope in Your word.**

<sup>1</sup> Kent Hughes, pg.49.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Lettie Cowman’s book, *Springs in the Valley* (pp. 196-197), A tale from African colonial history:

- b) Ps.5:3 **My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.** [David]
  - c) Ps.88:13 **But to You I have cried out, O LORD, And in the morning my prayer comes before You.** [sons of Korah]
  - d) Is.26:9 **With my soul I have desired You in the night, Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early.**
4. **One mother heard her 3-year-old daughter answer the phone in the next room, while doing her devotions... "My mom is having her **emotions** now. Can she call you back?"**
- a) **"Meet Him in the morning if you want Him through the day!"**<sup>3</sup>
5. **Stare into His face...& don't move!** [like the camera!]
- H. **I wonder if daily our **faces** showed, like the cameras film, registering how much **exposure** we had to God that day, if we'd be a little more diligent to this important task?** (Like Moses w/10 comm)
- I. **Slide#20 Don't Just Sit There, Do Something!** (36-39)
- J. **Prayer should end in Action!** - When you say **Amen**, you should hear God yell, **Action!**
- 1. **At the end of your prayer, when you say AMEN, what ACTION do you do?**
  - 2. **Do you pray for the sick and then leave it at that?** Or do you pray for the sick, and then pick up the phone and call them to let them know you are thinking about them. Do you ask if you can do anything for them? A hot meal brought to their home? Any medicine they need to have picked up?
  - 3. **Do you pray for the poor and hope God does something about the poor?** Or do you pray and ask God to use you? Do you put actions to your prayer, giving to the poor yourself, or donating food to our CARE Ministry?
  - 4. **Do you pray for church/kingdom growth and then hope that God inspires someone to do something about it?** Or do you pray and then say as Jesus said, **"I have to go somewhere so I can tell someone about the Good News of Jesus."**
- a) When you say **Amen**, you should hear God yell, **Action!**

## VI. Slide#21 **SEE SPOT RUN! (40-45)**

- A. **Slide#22 auto blast SEEING SPOTS!** (physical leprosy)
  - B. **Leprosy** (or called **Hansen's disease**, by the man who diagnosed its cause) - Luke tells us he was **"full of leprosy"** (5:12) [i.e. consumed by it]. [we're only 10 days away from the **World Leprosy Day Jan.30th**]
- 1. **Its progression:** tired, fatigue, joints sore, little white spots, begin to harden into nodules, turn from white to pink to brown, become scaly, spreads all over the body, the face begins to appear like a lion, the nodules ulcerate/producing a foal odor, breath w/a wheezing sound, eyebrow fall out, hair turns white, pus oozes out, loss

<sup>3</sup> Jerry Vines, pg.27.

of all sensation of pain (& pleasure), fingers & toes start to fall off, a leper was “walking death”!

a) **Disfigurement** is solely because the body’s warning system of pain is destroyed. The disease acts as an **anesthetic**, bringing numbness to the extremities.

2. There was **physical** rejection; **but also social** rejection & **psychological** rejection as well.

a) Ken Gire writes in *Incredible Moments w/the Savior*, “There he lives. W/o love. W/o hope. W/o the simple joys & dignities of life: being smiled at...being greeted on the street...buying fresh fruit in the market... talking politics by the public fountain... laughing...getting to go to work...operating a business...haggling over prices w/a shopkeeper...getting a wedding invitation...singing hymns in the synagogue... celebrating Passover w/family. – All these barred to him. **Forever**. **I wonder**. How long has it been since someone has shaken his hand...patted him on the back...put an arm around his waist...rubbed his shoulders...hugged him...stroked his hair...touched his cheek...wiped a tear from his eye...or kissed him?”

C. (41) **Jesus response!** - **Note: His Compassion; His Touch; his Word.**

1. **Hitch hiker I picked up once:** I reached over to shake his hand (mine already extended; mid-80’s when the world was just getting educated about AIDS)...he had open sores all over his hand.
2. **Jesus didn’t need to touch to heal, but He obviously delighted in touching needy people.** This touch meant, “to fasten, adhere to.”

D. If we define Lepers as those who are **isolated, unwanted, the discards** of society...

1. **Who are the Lepers in our society today? Who are the Lepers in your sphere of influence? Who are the Lepers in your extended family? Who are the Lepers in our church? Who are the Lepers in the Murrieta/Temecula Valley?**
  - a) **Who is the 1 person on your child’s sports team that no one likes? Who is the 1 parent that’s so obnoxious? Who is the biggest complaining neighbor on the block? The 1 relative that everyone runs from when they come into the room? The 1 youth you see that dresses the most promiscuous?**
  - b) **This is the very essence of Christianity...to touch the untouchable; to love the unlovable; to forgive the unforgivable.**

E. **Slide#23 SEEING MY SPOTS!** (spiritual leprosy)

F. No disease in the bible pictures the devastating results of **sin** in a life **as does** the disease of **leprosy**.

1. The leper was not worse than any of his countrymen. **But** it is nevertheless a parable of sin, an “**outward visible sign of innermost spiritual condition.**”<sup>4</sup>
  2. **Adam himself became a carrier of this disease!** (you are a carrier too!)
- G. Leprosy has a *subtle beginning* & *slow progress*. It’s a *destructive power* & brings *decisive ruin*...making it a **powerful symbol** of **moral depravity!**
1. Apart from Christ we are “spiritual lepers”. **Simply “walking death”!**
  2. **Sin** often acts as an *anesthetic*, bringing *numbness* to our souls.
    - a) It **lies** & whispers *either*, “there’s nothing wrong with you”, or “you are so bad your case is incurable!”
  3. **Religious band-aides** won’t help. **Going-to-church-gauze** is not a cure. Being a **do-gooder** is a placebo.
  4. We must wake to the fact that our old nature it is **terminal!** **Our whole nature is wrong.** It, like leprosy, is more than skin deep. Paul called it being, “**dead in sin**”.
  5. **Slide#24** Jeremiah said, **Can the Ethiopian change his skin** (a dark skinned man change his color pigmentation) **or the leopard its spots?** (become spotless) **Then may you** (Judah) **also do good** who are accustomed to do **evil?** (Judah was incapable of reforming herself) (13:23)
  6. **Slide#25** Jeremiah also said just after that, **Will you still not be made clean?** (13:27)
    - a) **Can you see your leprosy?** - **Can you say, “Unclean! Unclean! & really mean it?”**
      - (1) When we do, then & only then can we cry, “I’m clean! I’m clean!”
- H. **Slide#26** Hate the Leprosy, love the Leper!
1. **Story:** Father Damien of Molokai. In 1873 a Belgian Catholic Priest was sent to minister to lepers on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai. When he arrived he immediately **began to meet each one** of the lepers in the colony in hopes of building friendships. But, wherever he turned people **shunned him**. It seemed as though every door was closed. He poured his life into his work, erecting a chapel, beginning worship services, & pouring out his heart to the lepers. But it was to no avail! No one responded to his ministry. **After 12 years Father Damien made the decision to leave.** Dejectedly, he made his way to the docks to board a ship to take him back to Belgium. As he stood on the dock he **wrung his hands nervously** as he recounted his futile ministry among lepers. As he did he looked down at his **hands** & noticed some **mysterious white spots** & **felt some numbness**. Almost immediately he knew what was happening to his body. **He had contacted leprosy!** It was then that he knew what he had to do. He returned to the colony & to his work. Quickly the word about his disease spread through the colony. Within a matter of hours everyone knew. Hundreds of them gathered outside his hut; they understood

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<sup>4</sup> R.C.Trench

his pain, fear, & uncertainty about the future. But the biggest surprise was the following Sunday.

As Father Damien arrived at the chapel, he found 100's of worshipers there. By the time the service began, the chapel was crowded, & many were gathered outside. His ministry became enormously successful. The reason? He was one of them. He understood & empathized w/them.

- I. What do you need Jesus to **touch** today?
  1. Touch **your heart** that you might Learn to **Love a Leper** this week?
  2. Or, to touch **YOUR spiritual Leprosy**?
    - a) Hear from Jesus this morning, **"I am willing, *be cleansed!*"**
    - b) He touched **this leper**; He yearns to touch **you** this morning!
      - (1) Say like the leper this morning, **"You can make me clean!"** - He will!
  3. **Slide#27 Just understand:** Salvation isn't a blind leap; **Slide#28** it is being saved from the enemy; **Slide#29,30 blank** & brought safely to Jesus.