

## More than a Carpenter

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

- A. Slide#2 Children at Risk - Today 3-5pm *in the New rm.*
- B. Slide#3 Israel March 2014 Informational Mtg - May 6th, 7pm. New Rm.

### II. Slide#4 **Intro: More Than a Carpenter**

- A. This is a chapter filled with **opportunities**, some of which were missed because of **unbelief**, some of which were enjoyed because of **faith**.
  1. **Strap on your sandals** we're walking 20m w/Jesus & His disciples on Jesus' **last visit** to His hometown.
  2. **Then**, He will launch us out 2x2 to go **live out** our faith.

### III. Slide#5 **REJECTION (1-6)**

- A. Slide#6 NAZARETH (1,2)
- B. **Nazareth** - Archeologist tell us it was nothing more than a hamlet, on a rocky hillside, with no more than 500 people living there.
- C. The people in His hometown had tried to kill Jesus, their homegrown boy, just a year before (Lk 4:29), **but** He graciously **returned** and gave them **another opportunity** to get to know Him.
- D. Slide#7 MORE THAN A CARPENTER (3)
- E. Back in the home church/synagogue he would have attended as a child & young man.
  1. **Where did He get this wisdom?** He never went to rabbinical school.
  2. He was *the carpenter* in town.
    - a) Imagine your favorite town mechanic coming back & preaching. **Or electrician :)**
- F. Slide#8 **The Carpenter** – Jesus a blue-collar worker. Now there's a fit place for Jesus, as He came to earth to **build a ladder** from earth to heaven!
  1. Jn.1:51 **Most assuredly, I say to you**(Nathanael), **hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.**
  2. The ladder that **Jacob** saw, was now **replaced** by the Son of man. **Gods link w/earth.**
    - a) Actually **carpenter** was a general term, including a skilled worker in **stone** and metal, as well as **wood**.”
  3. Slide#9 **But one day** the townsfolk found a sign on the door to the carpenter shop **Closed**. **The doors locked. No longer in business.**
    - a) Jesus **left** that shop **& walked out into** the world.
    - b) No longer to build plows, yokes, & chairs, **but to build lives**. *More than a Carpenter.*

- G. **Son of Mary** - ouch, another sting. If you were a Catholic you might read this as a compliment. But sons were always identified by their **fathers**, even after their death.
1. They were in effect calling his mother a whore & him illegitimate offspring.<sup>1</sup> :(
  2. When asked, **Is Jesus...Lord, a Lunatic, or a Liar?** They chose **liar**, & a demonized one at that!
- H. **Slide#10 So they were offended at Him** - (the Msg says) *They tripped over what little they knew about him and fell, sprawling. And they never got any further.*
- I. **Slide#11 FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT** (4)
- J. (4) **A prophet is not without honor...** – Jesus quotes a familiar proverb of his day here.
1. Today we say, *“Familiarity breeds Contempt.”*
  2. **Slide#12 Michel de Montaigne** [16th cent] French **Philosopher, Politician**, & one of the most influential **writers** of the French Renaissance said, **“at home he was considered just a scribbling country proprietor, in the neighboring town a man of recognized business ability, & farther away a noted author.”**
    - a) The greater the distance, the greater he became.
- K. **Slide#13 Helmut Thielicke**(Tee-la-key, just died 1986), the famous German Theologian/preacher (known as the Billy Graham of Germany) was being interview in 1982 & was asked, **“What was the worse evil he experienced living under the 3rd Reich under the government of Adolph Hitler?”** His response, **“The unredeemed human heart!”**
1. Christine Caine said Friday, **“The problem is sin, the answer is Jesus, the hope is the church.”**
  2. **Jesus’ hearers were ice sculptors.**
- L. **Slide#14blank Are you too familiar with Jesus?** - Maybe you grew up *“knowing”* Him. At home, in church, maybe even Christian school. **The Bible, Jesus, Christianity, Christian things, have become too familiar to you.**
1. **Have you become Numbed** to certain bible verses you’ve heard so many times. **Desensitized** to how special the Bible is because you now have 12 bible's in written form & in digital format on your iMac, iPhone, iPod, iPad, & soon to be on iGlasses. **Anesthetized** by hearing peoples salvation story. **Do you feel Frozen** in your faith, or **Immobilized** by spiritual insomnia.
  2. I think this is the plague of our youth in modern day North American Christianity.
    - a) They know Him too well, or so they think.
- M. **Are you too familiar with Christian things that you have lost a sense of wonder or expectancy?**
1. How can we avoid this?

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<sup>1</sup> Hiebert, pg.139.

#### N. Slide#15 ASTONISHED (6)

- O. His neighbors were **astonished**(amazement) at what He said & did (2);  
 Jesus was **astonished**(**marveled**) at their **unbelief** that wouldn't let Him do more (6).
1. **Only 2 occasions** are recorded regarding Jesus **marveling!**
    - a) The Roman Centurion(w/the sick servant) who understood Jesus authority, **When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! Lk.7:9**
    - b) And here, of the **unbelief** from those it was **expected** to be found (His own townsmen)
  2. **See the importance of faith!!!** [**astonished/amazed** but w/no faith]
  3. **Scary, a person can be amazed with Jesus & yet still have unbelief. What does this warn us against?**

#### P. Slide#16 FAITH vs. UNBELIEF (6)

- Q. How would you define **unbelief**? - Unbelief & faith are opposites.
1. **Slide#17 "If faith is the capacity to receive what God wants to give, unbelief is the willful refusal to receive what God wants to give."**
  2. They erected a **barrier** of unbelief...**Have you?**
  3. **In all unbelief** there are these **two things**: a good opinion of **one's self** and a bad opinion of **God**. [Horatius Bonar]
  4. A.W.Tozer said, "Every man will have to decide for himself whether or not he can **afford the terrible luxury of unbelief.**"
- R. Wait, **Is God really hindered by our unbelief?** (not that He *could* not, but **would** not)
1. Ps.78:41 **Yes, again & again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.**

#### IV. Slide#18 COMMISSION (7-13)

- A. **Slide#19 DYNAMIC DUO** (7)
- B. Batman & Robin, Tom & Jerry, Lois Lane & Clark Kent, Starsky & Hutch, Donnie & Marie, Laurel & Hardy, Bonnie & Clyde, Sponge Bob & Patrick, *Beavis & \_\_\_\_\_*.
- C. **2 by 2** (*duo, duo*, the orig *dynamic duo*) – The advantages were obvious. One can help the other in times of danger, discouragement, doubt or disease.
1. **Slide#20 Eccl.4:9-12 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.**
  2. **Slide#21** *blank Peter & John; Paul & Barnabas; Paul & Silas*. Partners in ministry.
  3. We instituted a policy back in the mid 80's that we wouldn't travel alone.

- a) Explain Billy Graham story. [Dan/Wayne-Haiti; Chad/I-Cambodia]
- D. **Power** - There are 6 Greek terms for **power**. It's not the most common *dunamis* (might or strength) **but** the 2nd most common *exousia* (*X-oh-SEE-ya*; authority).
1. Its having authority over evil spirits.
- E. It was **rabbinic law** that when a man entered the Temple courts, he must put off his *staff, shoes, & money girdle*.
1. All **ordinary things** were to be set aside.
  2. Maybe he wanted the men to see *the humble homes* they would enter were every bit as **sacred** as the Temple courts.
  3. This forced them to be **dependent** on Christ for strength.
  4. The **minimum of provisions** was meant to call out the **maximum of faith**.
- F. **Slide#22 LIVE IN DEPENDENCE** (8,9) - the faithful follower lives in dependence on God.
- G. (Msg) *Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. You are the equipment.*
1. I heard this quote this week (John Ortberg) *Make disciples. Arrange your time so you are living w/deep contentment w/joy & confidence... You'll always produce who you are!*
- H. (8,9) *If the disciples take no provisions for themselves, on whom must they rely?*
1. **Trust God & depend** on the hospitality of the people.
  2. **Slide#23** Alfred Plummer said, *Make no elaborate preparations, as if you were going on a long journey on your own business; you are going a short journey on mine.*
  3. **They were not to make elaborate preparations.**
    - a) This was to be an exercise in **faith as well as evangelism**.
    - b) It would be foolish to apply these instructions in a literal way *today*. **But the principles remain, namely, urgency & dependence.**
  4. Today we are more in danger of having **too much** baggage than **too little**.
  5. The Apostolic era could say, *Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.*
    - a) **Today** much of the modern church can say *neither!*
    - b) **Dependence** is necessary to meet & evangelize an unbelieving world.
- I. **Slide#24 DON'T SEEK COMFORT** (10) - don't seek comfort first, but God's pleasure.
- J. **They were not to be fussy** about where they stayed.
- K. (10) **Comfort** - The English Church of the 18th & 19th centuries was scandalized by fat country preachers who were authorities on hunting dogs & the vintages in their cellars.
1. *True Christianity, world-changing Christianity, is not comfortable.*

- L. **Slide#25 BE STRAIGHTFORWARD** (11,12) - about the condition of the world & the danger facing lost men & women.
- M. (11) **What were they to do if they met resistance?**
1. **Shaking off the dust** - represented a **strong symbolic gesture of rejection** (i.e.) *Keep your own dust!*
  2. Paul & Barnabas did this when leaving Pisidian Antioch. Acts 13:51
- N. (12) **What were they to preach? (repentance)**
1. **Interesting:** the word **repent/repentance** occurs **only 3x's** in Mark.
    - a) 1:4 (*John*) **John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance.**
    - b) 1:4 (*Jesus*) **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**
    - c) 6:12 (now it's passed on to *those who follow Jesus...the 12*) **So they went out and preached that people should repent.**
- O. **How do you think they felt when they went out?** (Not much training at this point, pretty nervous?)
- P. **How do you think they felt when they returned?** (Pretty pumped/excited to tell their story)
1. Read vs.30
- Q. It seems to be the same for **us...always** scary first going out, **always** rewarding upon our return.
1. **Slide#26,27 We'll have all eternity to celebrate our victories, But only one short hour before sunset to win them.** - Robert Moffat