

Exocentric Progression of the Gospel

I. Announce:

- A. Slide1-3 Andrew L: R&R. Fresh Hope. C@R.
- B. Slide4,5 Interview: (Des) What is GriefShare? (Des) Who is GriefShare for? (Gail) How has GriefShare helped **you?** - What is *Widow's Might*?
- C. Slide6 Justice Matters 9: Jan 26th. David Rogers, Director of law-enforcement operations, for the human trafficking institute. Dr. Sandra Morgan will MC again (she was appointed to *the White House's advisory council to end human trafficking*. She was nominated by **John Richmond**, ambassador-at-large of the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons JM7). Also, Harmony Dust/Grillo/Treasures, Cory Nickols/Destiny Rescue, Matt Robertson/AIM.
 1. Theme: Becoming Justice Minded. *It's one thing to do justice and quite another to become a justice-minded person.*
 - a) David Rogers said, "I wish people would pay attention to what's actually going on in the world around them. **There is room for everyone in this fight.** We need people who can poetically write about the issue, and people who can create awareness campaigns. We need people who can teach. We need lawyers, social workers, law enforcement, and judges. We need it all, and no one is all of those things. I want them to be aware and impassioned and empowered to go do something about it, because they can do something about it."
 2. Food available, BBQ, Maria's tamales & more.
 3. 18 Exhibitors. 5 Workshops (offered 2nd & 3rd services).
 4. Harmony will be sharing her thoughts on *the dangers of legalizing prostitution*.
 5. Highlight 1 workshop: called **Digital Family**. We believe every youth, parent & grandparent should attend. [*Positive perspective* rather than to create fear]
 - a) **James Walker**, *Masters in Education*, is the Academic Support & Technology Director at *Whittier Christian HS* & a professor in Vanguard University's Teacher Education Program.
 - b) James will approach his workshop through the lens of *why* to have *a digital safety plan*. How to develop a plan as a family to protect young people from predators

online. **To** make sure that nobody in your home is complicit in human trafficking by viewing pornography. **How** to collectively work together **as a community** to create a healthier digital environment in a larger context **and** use technology to create a more just society.

6. Our *local task force agents* will be here to talk about *Our County* [Local Trends]
7. **18 organizations** you can meet and learn how you can **partner** with.
8. **We are excited JM9 is coming**. Come out & support the people who are on the ground. Fight the temptation to say home and *watch online*, these folks need to know that *we here @ CM support them in their work & pray for them*.

II. Slide7a **Intro: Exocentric Progression of the Gospel**

- A. Don Richardson called this the, *Exocentric progression of the gospel*. [exo/outside]
 1. 1:8 is *Jesus's last command*. W/o another word. W/o further discussion. He ascended into heaven to await his followers **complete obedience** to it.
- B. Jesus left us to be His witnesses: *So if the gospel fits wear it, own it, live it, give it, share it*
 1. **God's power, is available to God's people, who want to do God's will, and be God's witnesses.**¹
- C. **Read** Acts 1:1-8
- D. **So what is Missions?** We define missions *when one crosses a cultural barrier*, to the **un-churched**, to present the **gospel & make disciples**.
 1. I like what **Frontier Ventures** (*formerly* US Center for World Mission) says, **Slide7b**
WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF DREAMERS AND DOERS WHO LONG TO SEE JESUS WORSHIPPED IN THE EARTH'S DARKEST CORNERS.

III. Slide8a **STAY - UNTIL (Lk.24:45-49)**

- A. Luke started to wrap up his *1st Vol.* this way, *45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*

¹ Warren Wiersbe; With The Word; pg.706.

48 *You are witnesses of these things.* 49 *And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.* Lk.24

B. Jesus had just added *a significant item* here in Luke.

1. That, the global expansion of his glory would be...launched from **Jerusalem!** (**stay here**). Which connects to 1:8 **stay here** (which sounds like a strange way to launch a **global** missionary effort).
2. One fact often overlooked is that, **Jerusalem was not their home.** **Where was their home? Galilee.** See 1:11.
3. **Steven C.Hawthorne** (Perspectives), *These men and women follow Jesus's orders explicitly. They stayed in the city. We admire their courage. They stayed and prayed in the upper room. But when the promised outpouring of the power came upon them, they immediately went public. Then remained in the public eye, even risking their lives to do so. When persecution arose they did not scatter. Their witness and Jerusalem was not yet complete. They remained where it was most strategic and yet most dangerous. They were arrested, shamed, censored and beaten more than once. Still they continued. Even when James was killed they remained in Jerusalem refusing to flee. They were stubbornly obedient people.*

C. **STAY** - this *staying/waiting/tarrying* lasted a whole **10 days**, *no longer*.

D. **Slide8b In Christian service** there is **a delicate balance** between **spending time w/the Father** (in worship, praise, & intimacy), **&** in **obeying the Fathers commands** in ministry outreach.

1. **Staying/waiting** in the upper room, where they spent a good part of 10 days, must have been **a sweet time of peace, quiet, prayer, fellowship, & thanking Jesus for all He meant to them.**
2. Times such as these, in warm fellowship w/other believers in the presence of God, are **precious.** **But** then suddenly...the **until** hits.
3. If we don't have the **intimacy**, we won't have the **power.** [seek balance]
 - a) It's as necessary as **food** is to the human body. **But food**, like **staying/waiting**, can be **overdone.** [Make sure you don't become a professional *wait-er*]

4. We must *arise from our upper room* & head into the *marketplace of Murrieta* & over to *the shops of Mongolia*.
- E. **Slide8c UNTIL** – The until takes effect & they receive the **power** they'd been waiting for
1. From then on it was lights, camera, action.
 2. It was time for ministry & practical application of the power they'd receive.
 3. Within 24 hours, they had produced 3,000 unpolished disciples, who needed **care & nurture** in their Christian faith.
 - a) And the action *sparked* that day, *lasted the 30 year span* of the book of Acts.

IV. Slide9a **BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 1:4,5)**

- A. Sincere believers on all sides of *what they think this means*, *are seeking the same thing*, namely, *the unobstructed power of the HS in their lives and ministries*.
- B. There are **3 separate terms** used for this *power-bestowing event* Luke's talking about:
1. **Slide9b Baptized with the HS** – only 1 more time in Acts (11:16). *When Peter explains what happened in the house of Cornelius*.
 2. **The HS has come upon you** – (upon = epi)
 - a) Water pitcher into a glass effect.
 3. **Filled with the HS** – we have *repetitive times* individuals are filled w/the Spirit.
 - a) There are many *discussions, disagreements, & arguments* on how many times one can be **baptize or filled** w/the Spirit. **Whether** it occurs **at** salvation **or** is **subsequent** to conversion. **Whether** there is **initial physical evidence** to certify that it happened **or not**, is more important to some than others.
 - b) **Slide10,11** I think we can all agree on this: *We need to receive the supernatural power of the HS in our lives & our ministries to the greatest extent possible in order to serve God well in our world.* (Peter Wagner)
- C. **He has provided us with a power** for our daily living.
1. It's the difference between running an automobile **w/o gas & w/o oil**.
 2. **If you run it w/o gas the car stops**. But if you run it w/o **oil**...it will run for a little while, **but the repair bill is always costly**. (ask my Isuzu Rodeo, may he RIP)
 - a) **So it is w/the Christian life**.

V. Slide12a **POWER - WITNESS (1:6-8)**

A. **At this time?** - times, seasons, dates were matters w/in God's own purposes & authority.

1. Instead, He directed the disciples toward **their task** which was to be **His witnesses**.

B. **Israel** - Some believe God is completely done with **Israel**, and **the Church** has become the fulfillment of all future prophecies.

1. If this was so, why wouldn't Jesus have said, *Haven't you understood yet? There isn't going to be any kingdom restored in Israel.*

C. **Jesus' last words** – yet not as *a dying man*, but as **the Lord of Glory**.

1. Slide12b He taught them in **Jn. 14-16** that **He was going back to heaven to represent us & that we were to be here on earth representing Him**.

a) **He** would be in **heaven** as our ambassador & **We** would be here on **earth** as His ambassadors.

D. Slide12c **POWER** – Power for what? Power for **daily living** in *thousands of ways*.

1. The 1st **filling of the Spirit** was back in Ex.31:1-11. God **filled individuals with the Spirit of God** to do **sewing & embroidering & dress-making**. And in **all manner of workmanship** (3,5) [for His Tabernacle]

a) **This filling is for the laborer** who can either do his job everyday in his own strength, or asks, *Lord, help me to work that I can reveal You in my hard labor.*

b) **This filling is for the salesman** who either does his job everyday *in his own crafty way*, or asks, *Lord God, I don't want to lie about my product. I'll say things exactly as they are & not oversell it.*

2. Slide12d If you **think you're full**, He will leave you **empty**. If you **admit you're empty**,

He will **fill you up with all strength & power & might**...for the **Christian life**.

E. **WITNESSES** – *The apostles are called to testify about Christ - to proclaim the reality of His death and resurrection as well as His kingdom and lordship.*

F. **Where would they do this?** *Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, & to the end of the earth.*

1. This is the **5th** appearance of Jesus' **Great commission**.

G. Some read this as an **either/or**. *i.e.* in **one** of these places, **thus God use me where I am**.

H. Some read this as a **progression**. 1st in Jerusalem, **then** Judea, **then** etc.

I. I don't see this as an *either/or*, or only a *first/then*, but a *both/and*.²

1. Our impact, no matter where we live in this world, is to be **both local** (where you are) **and international** (to the nations).
2. My fear is that if we see **Murrieta** as our **Jerusalem**, there will always be people that need salvation here, **and** will never get outside of our city. [our caution...]
3. **Slide12e** *We can become so globally minded that were of no locally good. We can become so locally minded that we are no globally good.*

J. **Read** Ps.67 *God's World Vision*

K. **Slide13** **Ralph Winters E-Scale: E1-E2-E3: *The E-Scale compares the cultural distances that Christians need to move, in order to communicate the gospel.***

1. **E1 – Mono-cultural evangelism.** The only barrier is to move outside the church (also called the *stained-glass barrier*).
 - a) **Too many Christians fail to cross it.**
 - b) You don't have to learn a new language; don't have to eat different foods; don't have to adapt to new behavior patterns. Just have to communicate the good news to people very much like themselves.
2. **E2 & E3 – Both of these are Cross-cultural**, the difference is **one of degree**.
 - a) **E2** – example would be *Americans* evangelizing across into *Tijuana* because the cultures have comparatively **minor differences**. (diff from the indigenous peoples and cultures in the deep south, in Oaxaca, Mexico).
 - b) **E3** - example would be the **Hani & Rohingya**.

L. Evangelism in the **Jerusalem** and **Judea** sphere would seem to be **E-1**. **But Samaria** would bump it into an **E-2** because of *the cultural distance* between the Jews and 1/2 Jews.

E-3 would be *to the end of the earth*.

1. **Most people are won to Christ though E1 evangelism. It has always been this way & always will be.** It is the easiest, most natural & most effective kind of evangelism.
 - a) **Jesus was a mono-cultural evangelist** [1st 120 saved were **Jews**]
 - (1) **I will never do as good as **Jaya** ministering to the Rohingya in Nepal.**
But Jaya will new never do as good as our 1st Rohingya convert :)

² Developed from Bill & Amy Stearns, *Perspectives*, pg.724

M. Slide 14a Think of the **most beautiful mailbox** you've ever seen, maybe in a wealthy neighborhood. Now think of the **oldest, weather-beaten one** off an old dirt road.

1. The mailbox is important not because of what it is **in itself**, but because it belongs to & is part of, **something greater than itself**.

2. Both boxes can be equally trusted with a **precious letter**.

3. But a mailbox *disconnected from its system* would be useless.

a) It would neither **receive** nor **transmit** that stream of human communication for which it is made.

N. Think of your own mailbox and what it looks like. It may be in *Temecula, Wildomar, L.E., Menifee, or Murrieta*, but we are all part of the **U.S.P.S.** But we are also part of the **U.P.U.** (Universal Postal Union, worldwide, 192 countries).

1. Your life (or your mailbox) might look in good shape or weatherbeaten. **Freshly painted, or old and rusty. But you are His!**

2. **Disconnect** yourself (your mailbox) from your street and hide it in the backyard and you become useless. **Connected**, it remains part of a system greater than itself. You can receive and transmit **precious letters of Good-News** to the masses...anywhere in the world.

O. *If the gospel fits...wear it, own it, live it, give it, share it.*

1. Slide 14b **God's power**, is available to **God's people**, who want to do **God's will**, and be **God's witnesses**.