



We're in this together!

We're in This Together!



- **This Great Adventure! Matthew 10.7-10**
- **Building/being nets of safety for the world/one another! Mt 4.19 Rom 12.4,5**
- **Holding the gospel “*as it was once delivered to the saints!*” Jude 1.3**
- **Running on the fuel of love that will keep us running after Him for a lifetime! John 14.15-17**

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- Doing what is right *just because it is right...* immediately or in time!
- Freed from condemnation and rejection we follow, and fall, *on an incline!*
- Not freed to go back to our old lifestyle, but called to “go and sin no more...”
- Operating from the base of humility that comes from knowing who He is and who He has made you to be!

We're in This Together!



- **Sharing the discovery of salvation with *journey partners!***
 - Praying, studying, getting experience, with people along the way...
 - People who are also coming to see Jesus, firsthand, at work!
 - People who come and go at different points during our lifetimes...
 - As we continue our lifelong pursuit of Jesus!

Today...



- Ever had someone say: “If I already told you this, just tell me, I don’t want to repeat myself...” *And then they do!*
 - Wanting to talk more than impart...
 - Wanting to be heard more than to hear...
 - Wanting to be understood more than understand...
- In discipleship, we often speak before we know what’s most needed... *TMII!*



**And that makes *seeking*
and searching before
speaking an important
concept of discipleship...**

Seeking and Searching!



- “You men of Athens, *I have watched and discerned* that in all things you are very religious. For as *I walked around and observed* your objects of worship, *I even found* an altar with the inscription, ‘to the unknown God.’ What you worship as something unknown *I proclaim to you!*” **Acts 17.22,23** **Lexicon**

Seeking and Searching!



- “To the Jews *I became as a Jew*, so that I might **gain** them; to those under the law as one of them, to **acquire** them; to those outside the law as one of them, to **win** them; to the weak, I became as weak, to **avoid the loss!** I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some! And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker of it with you!” **1Corinthians 9:20-23**

Seeking and Searching!



- *“When Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Men and brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee, and of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called into question.’ When he said that, there was a great dissension, and the captain came and rescued Paul!”* **Acts 23.6ff**

Today...



- **Understanding your audience is important if you want to be heard...**
 - **Especially making a case for faith!**
- **Approaching them from their life experience to give them a fresh perspective of their lives always works!**
 - **They may not be saved, but they will listen!**

Today...



- **Knowing *what they need to hear*, allows you to be focused on them and relevant when you speak!**
 - People want you to tell them a powerful and life changing story!
 - But they only want the parts of *your story*, that can make their story better!
 - Which means having an “aspect” of your life story ready...

Today...



- **Knowing *what they need to hear*, allows you to be focused on them and relevant when you speak!**
 - People want you to tell them a powerful and life changing story!
 - But they only want the parts of *your story*, that can make their story better!
 - Which means you have cataloged your experiences so that you can be selective...

Today...



- **Knowing *what they need to hear*, allows you to be focused on them and relevant when you speak!**
 - People want you to tell them a powerful and life changing story!
 - But they only want the parts of *your story*, that can make their story better!
 - Which means you have heard and understand your audience's needs!

Aspect!



- Giving a person a way to see *something of your story* that is pertinent to theirs...
- Exposing a “*slice*” of your life so that it brings theirs into sharper focus...
- Giving someone a vantage point *to see a view* of how their lives can be different, better, with God!

People...



- **Want to hear how your “real” life was powerfully changed!**
 - They give it more weight when they hear it from “non-professional” people!
- **But they want you to speak clearly and to stay focused (on them)!**
 - They also want you to treat them with respect and to remember that they can think for themselves!

Our Father...



- **Wants us to know that the people around us are the reason we were left here!**
- **Wants us to know that He does His best work through everyday people!**
 - **“Go tell the great things the Lord has done for you. And men marveled!” Mark 5:19,20**
 - **“Come see the man, is this not the Christ?”
“And now we believe!” John 4.29,42**

Our Father...



- **Wants us to know that the people around us are the reason we were left here!**
- **Wants us to know that He does His best work through everyday people!**
 - **“Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech, the goal being to make men thirsty for God by the answers you give.” Colossians 4:3-6**

That leaves... US, Disciples!



- We need to watch, discern, walk around, *'spirit stirred'* to find ways of approach to the people around us!
- We need to do it to win, win over, gain, and not allow the loss of men's souls!
- And when we speak, it needs to be in aspect; searching for the words that will make the difference!

That leaves... US, Disciples!



- “I pray that God will open doors for me to tell the story of Christ, making it clear what He does for us. As I live and work among people inside and outside the kingdom of heaven I want to be alert and not miss a moment... I will control my thoughts and words and do *the work of an evangelist*, discharging all the duties of my personal ministry.”
Colossians 4.3-6 2Timothy 4:1-5

That leaves... US, Disciples!



- “I will listen intently to hear what matters to others before I speak, to find common ground, to build on my relationship with them, to gain their ear to tell a relevant story of God’s love... and I will do it all for the gospel’s sake so that I can declare that I am a full partaker of it with all believers because we are in this together!” Proverbs 18.13
1Corinthians 9.20-23



“Searching for Words!”