

# Getting Beyond the Surface

## I. Introduction –

\*\*\* I would like to share with you my goals for today, the things I have asked the Lord to do as a result of our time together:

1. We would all have a greater understanding of how God brings about real, lasting heart change for ourselves and others.
2. As a result of this understanding, we would worship and love God in a deeper way because of His amazing grace.
3. As a result of our growing worship and love of God, we would become more intentional and effective in caring for and ministering to those within this community (inside and outside the church).
4. As a practical first step in being intentional in caring for others, many of you will begin volunteering at the MOM House so that Sandi can organize a way to follow up with those whom you have served and live out the principles we will talk about today.
5. As a result of the above four things, God will be glorified! And isn't that why we are here . . . to glorify His Name! Psalm 115:1 says, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory because of your love and faithfulness."

## II. Why should I get \_\_\_\_\_ in the lives of hurting people?

A. God's heart is for the \_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ says, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."
2. \_\_\_\_\_ says, "When he [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

B. God wants to use \_\_\_\_\_ to minister to hurting people (not just pastors/counselors).

1. **Galatians 6:2** says, "Carry each other's \_\_\_\_\_, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
2. Think about it, God uses \_\_\_\_\_ people to do extraordinary things in the lives of others. **2 Corinthians 3:5-6a** says, "Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, But our sufficiency is from God who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant" (ESV).
3. Some biblical examples of God using ordinary people include:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (an exiled murderer)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (the shepherd boy with no military training)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (a young lady living in poverty)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ (who publically denied Christ)
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ (persecutor of the church)
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_ (a hated tax collector)

4. “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

a. Robb’s \_\_\_\_\_ before he was 20. He has loads of \_\_\_\_\_ for people who have difficult questions for God.

b. A woman we counseled who had a \_\_\_\_\_ of a husband for over 20 years and now has a thriving marriage is now receiving counseling training with her husband to help others.

C. God will be \_\_\_\_\_ as He transforms people’s lives through you. In a book I highly recommend for all of you to read, *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands* (pg. 21), Paul Tripp says, “God transforms people’s lives as people bring His Word to others . . . In personal ministry, I want to bring more than a heart of compassion, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to help bear someone’s burden . . . I want to bring the heart changing truths of Scripture to people in the midst of their situations and relationships. Personal ministry is about people loving people, but in a way that includes bringing them God’s Word . . . The combination of powerful truth wrapped in self-sacrificing love is what God uses to transform people.”

III. The \_\_\_\_\_ – the first priority in helping people change.

A. A person’s greatest need is to be \_\_\_\_\_. *Nothing else is even close.*

1. Matthew 16:26

2. John 8:31-38

3. Romans 6:5-14

B. Share the gospel the way Jesus did (visit [www.wayofthemaster.com](http://www.wayofthemaster.com)).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 10:17-22)

2. The law (specifically the 10 commandments) is meant to reveal our \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 7:7), and point us to Christ (Gal. 2:24). Show a person their \_\_\_\_\_ before you give them answers.

3. Jesus with the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4).

a. Related to her in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm (v. 7 - drink of water).

b. Swing to \_\_\_\_\_ things (v. 10 - living water).

1. Do you believe in God?

2. Do you have a church home?

3. Do you consider yourself a good person?

4. Do you think you will go to heaven or hell when you die?

c. Uses the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment (adultery) to show her that she is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 16-18). Jesus knows her situation; we will have to ask questions.

1. Have you ever told a lie?
2. Have you ever stolen anything?
3. Have you ever lusted after a man or woman?
4. Have you ever been jealous because of what someone else had?

d. Reveals He is the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 25-26).

C. The gospel is not only vital to salvation, it is essential for \_\_\_\_\_ (growth in Christ-likeness). By daily remembering the gospel, believers will:

1. Have power to say no to \_\_\_\_\_ (Titus 2:11-14).

2. Do \_\_\_\_\_ in service to God (Ephesians 2:8-10).

- “Released from the burden of having to maintain my righteous standing with God, I quickly found that I had enormous amounts of passion to put into growing in holiness and ministering God’s amazing grace to other people” (Milton Vincent, *A Gospel Primer for Christians* pg. 96).

3. “This doctrine of trusting in Jesus Christ alone for one’s salvation is a basic truth of the gospel. Without acceptance of it there is no salvation. All believers by definition accept that fact. But it is important to realize that we were not only saved by faith at a particular point in time, but we are to live by faith in Christ every day of our lives. This means that . . . **I must continue to renounce any confidence in my own goodness and place my confidence solely in Christ every day of my life, not only for my eternal salvation, but for my daily acceptance before a holy God**” (Jerry Bridges, *Disciplines of Grace* pg. 51).

D. The consequences of \_\_\_\_\_ to live the Christian life with the gospel in view:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ based relationship with God.

a. Lose sight of God’s love because we think we are more loved by God today because we did our devotions, went to church, etc.

b. We will always wonder if we have done enough to satisfy God.

c. We will become frustrated and/or exhausted in our service to God, and perhaps eventually quit serving.

d. Our love for God will run cold and our service to Him will be a duty and an obligation rather than a joy and a privilege.

2. Serious problems with our \_\_\_\_\_ will result (*Romans 2:15*).

a. If we excuse our sin we are on the path to a hard heart (Heb. 3:12-13).

b. If our conscience accuses us and we don’t remember the gospel and the God of grace we will lose sight of God and begin to despair.

IV. If I am going to be intentionally involved in people’s lives, how can I do it for the glory of God?

A. Always remember that the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Proverbs 4:23** says, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

Also, **Read Matthew 6:19-24**.

1. Everyone has some kind of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19-20).

2. What a person treasures will \_\_\_\_\_ the heart (v.21-23).
3. What controls the heart controls the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 24).

B. If you target \_\_\_\_\_ change without the heart you will be helping a person become a \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus said of the Pharisees:

1. **Matthew 15:8** says, “These people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.”

2. **Matthew 23:27** says, “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like white washed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean.”

C. Ask \_\_\_\_\_ to draw out the heart, show you \_\_\_\_\_, start a discussion.

1. **Proverbs 20:5** says, “The purposes of a man’s heart are \_\_\_\_\_, but a man of understanding draws them out.”

a. Look for opportunities

b. It really is true, people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.

2. **Proverbs 17:17** says, “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

D. If they open the door to their heart or ask for help I want to minister the Word of God to them. Remember I want to do more than just listen and empathize, I want to minister truth.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ says, “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

2. \_\_\_\_\_ says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

3. \_\_\_\_\_ says, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

- the list of hollow and deceptive philosophies around today is endless.

V. How People \_\_\_\_\_ – *Only the \_\_\_\_\_ has the power to change a person.*

\*\*\* *Acts 1:8* says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . .”

\*\*\* *Romans 8:11* says, “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

\*\*\* *Ezekiel 36:26-27* says, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

A. \_\_\_\_\_ the Heart (What needs to be put off?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – ask God to reveal areas of sin.

a. What did I want?

b. What does that say about God?

2. \_\_\_\_\_ – personal insight is the product of community. **Proverbs 18:1** says, “**He who separates himself seeks his own desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom**” (NASB).

3. \_\_\_\_\_ – you have an obligation to help someone see their sin, but do it gently and out of love for your brother or sister.

B. Turn and \_\_\_\_\_ the Triune God (Be renewed in your mind about what is True).

1. “Having looked to our hearts, we turn to Jesus. True change takes place when we focus on knowing the One who truly deserves our worship” (Ed Welch, *Motives* pg. 23).

2. **II Peter 1:3** says, “His divine power has given us \_\_\_\_\_ we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”

3. “We should be spending more time looking at Christ than inspecting our own hearts. Because if you are growing in the knowledge of God, you will be changed – even to the depths of your heart” (Ed Welch, *Motives* pg. 28).

C. \_\_\_\_\_ God (What needs to be put on?) “Our personal knowledge of God compels us into \_\_\_\_\_. It leads us to trust and obey” (Ed Welch, *Motives* pg. 26).

1. Romans 1-11 gives us many great doctrines of the faith and then \_\_\_\_\_ says, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the patten of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

2. \_\_\_\_\_ says, “Love the Lord your God with all heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children . . .”

VI. A quick summary

- A. God wants us involved in hurting people's lives.
- B. To share the gospel like Jesus did you can relate to him or her in the natural world, transition to the spiritual world, help them to see how they have violated God's law in a very compassionate way, then let them know Jesus is the answer.
- C. Heart change is always the target, and we address the heart with Scripture and much prayer, relying on the Spirit of God to change a person.
- D. People grow and change as they examine their own heart, turn to and know God, and then trust and obey God (or put off, change thinking, put on).
- E. God's Word, God's Spirit, and God's people working together bring lasting change.