



Being the Message

"Why would little children run up to Jesus? Why would rich and poor alike follow Him? Why would more than 5,000 people hang out with Him for three days, enduring hunger just to see and hear Him? Why would men, women, and children leave their farms and fishing boats, shops, homes, and villages just to visit at His feet? Why would they suspend their livelihood for a time to rush out to the countryside when they heard He was nearby?

It was because they loved what He had to say. It was because He told them about citizenship in a Kingdom that would give them a higher lifestyle and greater future than they would ever find in any of the kingdoms of men. JESUS MODELED THE VERY MESSAGE THAT HE PREACHED and it drew men and women from every strata of life. This is a great challenge to us in our times. THE MESSAGE THAT WE PREACH MUST BE THE MESSAGE THAT WE LIVE."

Rediscovering the Kingdom: p. 149-150

Wow!!! What a statement from our resident wise man Myles Munroe. What an immense difference there is between "preaching" a message and "being" a

message!!! For those that are married maybe you have realized that it is a little easier to "preach" your love for your spouse at the time of the marriage proposal, then it is to "live" that love in the midst of life. The challenge does not really come from proclaiming something, the challenge comes from modeling it. Jesus was able to do that...remember Sunday we talked about the fact that when Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life" John 14:6. He was making a powerful statement about two things...One being who He was, and the second concerning who we are to be.

I wanted to take a couple minutes and rest on the idea of Him being the TRUTH. When Jesus made the statement that He was the truth he was saying..."I am He in whom the truth is summed up and impersonated." Meaning..."you want the truth, then look at me!!!" How often have we made a similar statement, but with one MINOR adjustment..."you want the truth, then LISTEN to me." In changing that one word, so much is lost. It is a sad truth that the first word that many non-christians in the world use today when the church is mentioned is "Hypocrites". For a working definition of what people say about the church I took a peek at what our good friend Webster had to say about it...

hyp·o·crite -

a person who puts on a **false appearance** of virtue or religion.

I was recently looking at the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John chapter 4. I would encourage you to look at this story. It is a great picture of how things "should" be as we "live" the message. The Samaritan woman has an encounter with Jesus, she then runs and tells all of those she knew and they also came to see this Jesus. The scripture that stuck out to me so much was verse 42, "They (the Samaritans) said to the woman, 'we no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.'" How incredible that their opinion of Jesus message actually IMPROVED once they met the one who spoke the message. I think that is because he didn't "PUT ON A FALSE APPEARANCE", He literally was his message. Oh Lord, help that to be what takes place as people meet us!!! WE HAVE A WONDERFUL MESSAGE..."The Kingdom of Heaven has come to earth!!!". The problem is that for too long we haven't "lived" this message...in our marriages, our jobs, our schools, etc. It is our prayer at this church, that as people come near to us as a body of Christ their opinion of the message we preach would IMPROVE not DECLINE.

Let's MODEL this message that we are preaching...as Myles says "THE MESSAGE THAT WE PREACH MUST BE THE MESSAGE THAT WE LIVE!" What a life this is!! Let's continue to live this out together as the Kingdom of God is extended through our lives into our homes, our workplaces, our cities, and throughout

the earth.

"And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Matthew 24:14

"Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." ...St. Francis of Assisi

**God Bless,
Pastor Caleb**

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