

Relationships: A Mess Worth Making

Moving Out

Philippians 2:14 – 16

Main Idea: “Moving out” into relationships requires sensitivity to the pain of this life and confidence in God’s grace to bring hope and change in the midst of that pain.

I. Introduction

- Consider the pain and disappointment that exists in the lives around you
- Think of all of the moments of regret that we live with ourselves
- In light of all of this, there are still moments when things go right!
- The remarkable thing about our world is not the amount of brokenness, but the presence of any good at all!
- The fact that God’s goodness still abides in the world is due to God’s grace alone!

II. The Meeting Place of Brokenness and Grace (Psalm 57:1 – 2)

- The Psalms express life as an intersection of pain and praise
- Praise lives in the middle of fear, pain, hurt and disappointment
- Praise doesn’t ignore these experiences, but rather increases as the hand of a redemptive God is recognized in the middle of life’s pains and joys
- Psalm 57 is a Psalm of “pain-stained worship”

III. The Evidence of the Visible Invisible Kingdom (Luke 17:20 – 21)

- The Gospel’s recipients are experiencing the quiet revolution of the kingdom of God
- The weapons of this kingdom warfare are humility, honesty, hope, grace and courage
- The warriors of this kingdom are humble servants who often go unnoticed
- The nature of this kingdom is that it is invisible, but profoundly evident
- The evidence of this kingdom’s effect is the presence of its King at work in your heart!
- Humility, forgiveness, patience, godly conflict, etc. are the evidences of the King’s work
 - They are evidences of grace
- Our relationships are a place where the kingdom’s grace has come and they are intended to attract others to the King

IV. Breaking into the Lives of Others with the Grace of the Kingdom (Matt. 5:13 – 16)

- Everyone in this life has the pain; what many people in this life lack is the grace
- We can effect change in the lives of others by intersecting their lives with grace
- It is our responsibility and privilege to point people to the King
- Jesus says that His Kingly presence in our lives makes us like salt and light
- We are not called to isolationism
- We are most true to our identity and calling when we live in the midst of broken people

V. Illustration: Being Salt and Light

- The image of salt highlights the importance of our character
 - Our character should stand out in the midst of the world
 - This can be demonstrated by courage, conviction, humility and compassion
 - In order to be salt, you must be confident in the God who entered a sinful world to redeem it
 - If you are humbled by the messiness of sin in your life, yet confident in God’s grace to change you, you will not be afraid to get close to other sinners who need the same grace
 - God has undoubtedly given you opportunities to be salt
 - What ministry opportunities are there with the people God has put in your path?
- Our relationships are meant to be beacons of light in a dark world
 - We are called to welcome people into the light
 - Philippians 2:14 – 16 speaks of our community functioning as light
 - We persuade people that the gospel is true because our lives are a compelling testimony to the God who has come for sinners
 - Our lives in Christ should be more compelling than the temporary pleasures of sin
 - What opportunities do you have to invite others into the light so they can see the kingdom?

VI. Conclusion (Application): Moving Out!

- Think of ways you can invite people into your life and start pursuing those opportunities in practical ways

