

Rom 1:16

The Gospel is not a power, but THE power of God for salvation. The Gospel makes an impact and an impact makes waves, it sends ripples, it surges outward. The Gospel surges outward through individuals, families, churches, and to the very ends of the earth. And when the Gospel works in this way, it has maximum impact; maximum power.

I. The World

1. We have been commissioned to carry this Gospel to the ends of the earth.
2. He has issued us all this call and He has made it clear. It is unquestionable.

a. We have received this call from the throne above

1. Matt 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

2. Mark 16:15 *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*

3. Luke 24:46-47 *Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

4. John 20:21 *Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you*

5. Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

b. We have received this call from the earth around

1. Acts 16:9 *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."*

2. 3.15 billion unreached peoples in the world calling to us!!!!

c. We have received this call from the Spirit within

1. 1 Corinthians 9:16 *Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*

d. We have received this call from the souls below!

1. Luke 16:27-28 *I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment*

I want to propose to You that the reason the gospel is not impacting the world to the extent that it could, is because the church has gotten sidetracked and is unhealthy.

1. How can we get sidetracked if these voices are compelling us to go!
2. Let us not miss the fact that missions is not A program of the church
3. Missions is THE program of the church

II. The Church

If we are going to impact the world with the power of the Gospel to the greatest possible extent, we will do it through the church.

1. And we do make an impact through the church whether we intend to or not.
2. We make either a positive impact or negative impact on our world through our local churches

Matt 23:15 *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.*

1. We must ask ourselves, are we exporting a healthy church or an unhealthy one?
2. We want to export purity, not impurity, truth, not falsehood to the ends of the earth
3. That is why it is so important that our churches be impacted, operated, and perpetuated by the true Gospel of Jesus Christ

I want to propose to You that the reason the gospel is not impacting the world to the extent that it could, is because the church is unhealthy...and a major reason our churches are unhealthy, is that our families are unhealthy.

III. The Family

The church is made up of families, for the most part and if our families are not strong, neither will our churches be strong.

If we are to have maximum impact in the church, our families must be in order

1. Husbands submitting to Christ
2. Wives submitting to Husbands
3. Parents disciplining, teaching, and training children
4. Children obeying and honoring Parents
5. This will take intentionality, sacrifices, going against the flow...and how quick we are to sacrifice a biblical model of family life for so little!

Judges 11:29-40

1. Jephthah sacrificed his child on the altar of victory over the Ammonites.
2. God did not require it or approve of it, but Jephthah made a vow and was obligated to offer it.
3. This horrible story is replayed over and over again today
 - a. We sacrifice our marriages and our children on the altar of success, prosperity and possessions, sports, popularity, and the approval of men.
 - b. Our culture has strategically sought to separate husbands, wives, parents and children

We must fight this trend by being intentional, making the necessary sacrifices, and sometimes saying no. I want to propose to You that the reason the gospel is not impacting the world to the extent that it could, is because the church is unhealthy...and a major reason our churches are unhealthy, is that our families are unhealthy...and the reason our families are unhealthy is because we are unhealthy.

IV. The Individual

It all comes back to individuals.

1. We can't blame the world, the church, or the family.
2. *In vain do you complain of magistrates and ministers, while you that are householders are unfaithful to your trust. You complain that the world is in a bad state: what do you do to mend it? Do not so much complain of others as of yourselves, and complain not so much to man as to God. Plead with Him for reformation.* Oliver Heywood a 17th century pastor
3. We must look in the mirror and ask ourselves...am I impacted by and operating under the power and direction of the Gospel, and is it flowing through my life, through my family, through my local church, and to the world.

So, it comes back to the power of the Gospel in our lives.

1. Have we experienced it
2. Are we experiencing it...really.

Invitation:

THE GOSPEL

Acts 26:16-20

1. **Turning**
2. **Trusting**
 - a. John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
 - b. Eph 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast*
3. **Transformation**
 - a. 2 Cor 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come*
 - b. Not just ABC, sinner's prayers, baptisms, church memberships, etc.
 - c. John 3:3 *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Home Group Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group.
3. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
4. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"