

Word Notes Sunday 25/11/2012 Simon Matthews
Being Like Jesus – Having “Babies”

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Matt 28:18-20

To be like Jesus is to be passionate about touching the lives of other people, to bring them into relationship with him. Matt 28:18-20, known as “The Great Commission”, is part of the vision and purpose statement of NCC. Being passionate about having spiritual babies transforms a church as well as individual lives.

Sometimes we struggle with barrenness whether 'in the natural' or the spiritual this is a deep painful thing and the devil likes to convince us we'll always be that way - it's like taking contraceptives! Firstly we may not see the harvest personally but can be a part of someone's journey - God is not wasteful, even so the Lord wants us to reproduce!

Jesus called those he wanted and appointed those 12 that they might be WITH HIM (Mark 3:13-15). Love is spelt T-I-M-E. The people we spend time with are our greatest and most successful area of ministry. To be with people in the good and bad times, being Jesus to them, is what it's all about. Psalm 126:5 says we will sow in tears, reap in shouting. As well as praying for them we get involved and burdened with their difficulties. Remember if you're going to do this there is the potential of being overwhelmed, it can wreck your life, there is a cost but be like Jesus: sacrificially giving out of a life spent close to God, give out of an overflow of receiving from God. Remember too that this is a team thing – we fish with nets not rods. If we introduce people into the wider circle of the fellowship then we share the load and each can use his or her gifts.

Our goal is not to create babies who are dependant on us, our aim is to move from reading the map for people to moving them to read the map for themselves. Nurturing and mentoring is needed in early stages, giving people the spiritual tools to first do it for themselves then become parents too. Young babies are vulnerable - they can come under a lot of attack. It can be like being in a battle zone - sometimes it can be like “come to Jesus and things will get harder”. The truth is that in Christ we are faced with decisions we never had to make before, but be cheered because we labour for them in God's strength not our own (Col 1:28,29).

Remember to use the gifts of the Spirit, be more effective in moving in realm of supernatural because this will witness to unbelievers. A word of knowledge can be a powerful tool as the Spirit gives us an ear to people's difficulties. The Gift of healings gave Jesus an inroad into speaking into people's lives. A word of encouragement (“prophecy”) is also effective, words of wisdom - how to deal with difficult situations - can bring about miraculous change, the challenge is to reach out in a positive way.

Jesus wants us to be fruitful and have spiritual babies, a key part is to be more effective in moving in supernatural and to break any barrenness in our spiritual lives.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

What would it look like if we were always positive in my conversations? At work: what difference would it make if we could be positive in all situations?

How might the gifts of the Spirit taken out of the church and into our lives touch others? When have you seen this happen? How might you improve in being open to the Spirit to use his gifts outside of “meetings”?

What one thing can you do this week that would make a difference to someone be specific, Name names! Share with one other person and email or text each other through the week to say how it went and encourage each other.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

How can we avoid the “cringe factor” when witnessing to others (not in us but in them!!!!)?