

Illuminate – Pt. 2

I. Intro:

A. “You are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good [works] and praise your Father in heaven.” -Matthew 5:14,16 NIV

B. Personal Story about Praying for my Boss:

a. Praying for God to bless him

b. Asked myself, “Is this right? Shouldn’t I pray that he gets saved first?”

c. Remembered the calling of Abraham:

1) **“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.” -Genesis 12:2**

2) **“He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.” -Galatians 3:14**

3) “Your job is not to change them, it’s to bless them.” -God

We're not called to change people, we're called to bless them!

II. The Kindness of God

A. Unbelievers need to know the nature of God.

a. Illustration: Little girl who had a nightmare

1) "I need God with skin on."

2) People need to see God with skin on—in other words—they need to see what God is like through us.

b. **That means we need to know Him for ourselves.**

c. The beauty of God is seen in His attributes

1) Beauty = symmetry

2) God's attributes are perfectly proportionate

a. Just yet merciful

b. Powerful yet meek

c. "God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God. Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy..." - Psalms 62:11-12

B. One of the most important attributes of God

is...He is good!

a. "Taste and see that the Lord is good..." -Psalms 34:8

1) Difference between *seeing* and *experiencing*

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- 2) I can see The Griffon (roller coaster) all day long but I have a little different perspective once I've ridden it...
- 3) People need to encounter the Lord to know how good He is.

b. "God's kindness leads you to repentance." -
Romans 2:4

c. Story of Peter catching a boatload of fish...

d. "When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "**Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!**" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,"
-Luke 5:8-9 NIV

C. God is a God of mercy and love...

a. It is because of the Lord's mercy and **loving-kindness** we are not consumed, because His (tender) compassions fail not. -Lamentations 3:22

b. "Remember, O LORD, Your **tender mercies** and Your **loving-kindnesses**, For they are from of old." -Psalms 25:6 NKJV

c. "The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love." -
Psalms 103:8 NLT

D. Have you ever received mercy?

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III. We owe the world an encounter with Love itself

- A. Remember...we're not called to change the world, we're called to bless it.
 - a. Pray for our bosses
 - b. Pray for our neighbors
- B. Jesus didn't come to condemn the world.
- C. He didn't come to set the record straight about Himself.
- D. He came to reveal the heart of the Father.
- E. Note: If you want to know what God is like—look at Jesus.
 - a. To Phillip He said—"if you've seen me you've seen the Father." (John 14:9)
 - b. Colossians 1:5 "The Son is the image of the invisible God..."
 - c. Hebrews 1:3 "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the **exact representation** of His being..."
- F. "For **God so loved the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. -John 3:16-17 NIV
- G. Love is our deepest motivation to share Christ with others...(this cannot be a theory!)
- H. "For Christ's love **compels** us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should

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no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” -2 Corinthians 5:14-15
NIV

I. We are called to give the GOOD NEWS!!!

- a. All of God's wrath poured out on Jesus at the cross.
- b. We have been reconciled to God!
- c.

IV. How to be a light

A. Note: Use Wisdom and Discernment

- a. Jesus said, “Be wise as a serpent, and harmless as a dove.”
- b. **“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.”** -Proverbs 11:30 NKJV
- c. Overt vs. Covert
 - 1) Overt – obvious/direct
 - 2) Covert – indirect uses wisdom and discernment (wise as a serpent, harmless as a dove)

B. Pray for them

- a. PRAY privately for the success of your unsaved boss, co-workers, neighbors, teachers, and family members
- b. PRAY personally if appropriate.

C. Serve them

- a. Work hard

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- b. Be a “lifter” – speak life and encouragement
- c. Protect their reputation
- d. Find ways to be a blessing—with no ulterior motive—just to love them.

D. Share *your* story

- a. There's something powerful about your personal experiences with God's love.
- b. Focus on being authentic rather than being impressive.

E. Share *the* story