

Seeing others through eyes of hope: Becoming people of impact in a dying world

John 4:27-28

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to see him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “Why are you talking to her?”

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper may be glad together . . .

First Baptist Portland

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1. Jesus lead by example →

- Luke 8:1
- Matthew 9:35-38

2. Jesus had priorities →

- Eating could wait

3. His mission was urgent →

- “Open your eyes and look At the fields”

4. He was positive despite the challenges →

- The harvest is ripe

“After God’s astounding identification with humanity in Christ what reason left do we have to separate ourselves from others in any way however ugly, however bad, however wrong they may be?” **Mike Mason**

Before Jesus “commissioned” his disciples he lived the great commission out before them, he lead by example. **O**ur mentoring and discipleship relationships may be the most important roles we play today but as much for how we live than for what we say.

People in the margins were often his priority, he continually sought out those others ignored or had forgotten by others.

Acts 16:10 “After Paul had seen the vision we got ready *at once* to leave for Macedonia . . .”

Luke 12:32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

God’s people are often pessimistic, discouraged, critical and negative, like trash trucks filled with garbage. **B**ut we must give vision and hope.

Consulted and quoted works by J.M. Boice, J. Stott, M. Mason, C.H. Spurgeon, and A. Fernando.

