

What are we Doing?

Ryan O'Connor

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Intro

1. God invaded the earth. And He required a response. We either accept the gift and make a change or we relinquish all authority to a devil that seeks to steal, kill and destroy.
 1. WHAT IS THAT RESPONSE?
2. John the Baptist came to prepare the way for something the world had never seen. Because of that, Jesus said he was the greatest of the prophets of old. Yet the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than John. (Matthew 11:11)
 - His message was "Repent". WHY?
 - A MAJOR CHANGE IS COMING AND IT REQUIRES OUR RESPONSE!!!
 - When this prophecy is fulfilled, everything after would be held to a new standard. The old would be gone, and all would become new.
3. Jesus came as a fulfillment of what John prophesied.

Intro (Cont.)

Jesus also came with a statement: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." *Matthew 4:17*

1. **Repent** - reform, change the way you think and act.
 1. **Re** - Go back
 2. **Pent** - Think Pent-house or top floor
 3. Go back and change the way you think and see it from His perspective. Why?
2. **For the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand** - or within reach is a new way/standard of living is possible and we must respond. Once Jesus showed up on the scene, the kingdom showed up with Him and we are no longer allowed to go about as if it didn't happen. He forces us to respond.
3. **HOW WILL WE RESPOND?**
 1. Religious weekly Rituals?
 2. To give Him two hours of our week every Sunday?
 3. Build More churches just for the sake of building more churches? Then what? So you have tons of churches? What now?

Why do we do what we do?

**** SHOW VIDEO ****

- Rituals won't work. Example: *Acts 19:11-16*
- *Matthew 23:1-7*
- *Matthew 23:13-15*

THOSE ARE SOME HARSH STATEMENTS THAT TOTALLY CONFRONT
THE CURRENT SYSTEMS REALITY

- " The number of Americans who don't go to church has mushroomed from 39 million to 75 million since 1991 - representing more than 1/3 of the U.S. adult population and a 92% increase." - Barna Research Group
- How much longer will we stick with our traditional ways while the very people who the church is for continue to walk away in mass?
- Who will be left in the next generation?

New Proposition

- May I propose that God is more concerned with the message than the model?
- Could it be that God is more concerned with making disciples than he is church members?
- Is the need for Christ any less necessary or relevant today than it was over 2000 years ago?
- How long will we continue to spend all of our time and resources just to get people to *come* to church or *join* the church and neglect training them *as* the church.
- As E.M. Bounds said, "Men are seeking better methods, God is seeking better men."

New Proposition (Cont.)

- When we understand that discipleship is not 3 worship songs, an offering, a sermon and an altar call, then we have reached the beginning of discipleship and the beginning of our true commission as *the church*.
- *And that is a church that hold services everywhere.*
- You are the Body of Christ. Wherever you meet, the body meets. Where two or three are gathered in His name, He is with us. (*Matthew 18:20*)
- Jesus addresses this specifically when the religious people questioned some of the practices of His disciples:
 - *Matthew 9:14-17* - New wine old wineskins
 - *Matthew 9:18-38* - A new way and power has come

What Next?

Matthew 10:1-15:

10 Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. 9 "Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, 10 or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. 11 "And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city. 12 "As you enter the house, give it your greeting. 13 "If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace. 14 "Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. 15 "Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

THEY WENT HOME TO HOME!!

Conclusion

- It's not the model or the methods that matter, it's the message and what we do with it.
- What is our response?
 - Church as usual
 - 2 Hours a week every Sunday
 - I do not attack "church", I attack religious rituals that make people think that what they are doing is "good enough." God paid for a greater response than that.
- Or will we receive the invitation to join an army that is trained to pick up where He left off and go about destroying the works of the devil.
- Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, raise the dead. Freely we received, freely we must give.