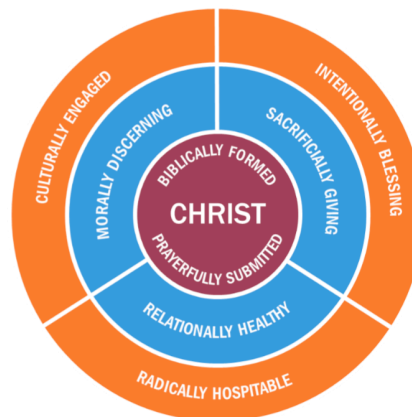


Bullseye: Aiming at Christ // “Intentionally Blessing” Week 8 | November 25, 2018

Sermon Summary: During our *Bullseye* series, we are working through the image right below this paragraph. This image is what we’re calling “The Aim of a Disciple”. We’re reminded that at the center of this aim is Jesus. All of the other sections of this image will get a turn to be unpacked in this series. But Jesus isn’t one of the weeks. He’s all of the weeks. We start with Him at the center. If we don’t, everything else just turns into moralism or trying to be a good person.



Each color of the image also represents the three different layers of our church mission statement. At Willowdale, we Love God (the red center of the aim), Love Each other (the blue layer), and love the World that Jesus, through His people (His *disciples*) is working to restore. Today, we wrap up the complete series by talking about what it means to be Intentionally Blessing.

To be *intentional* means to do something on purpose. To *bless* someone is to do something good for them. When you put the two together you get the idea of doing something good for someone else on purpose. The important thing to note is that people bless other people on purpose all the time. People do nice and good things for other people. The big question for us is, how should the good things we do for other people on purpose be different? For starters, the reason we bless is because Christ is at the center of our bullseye; He is our aim.

As we continue to follow the model of Jesus, we look to a familiar story in the Gospel of John: The Feeding of the 5000 (found in John 6). There was a crowd following Jesus and his disciples so Jesus asked Philip where they would be able to find enough food to feed everyone. John 6:6 is an important one: “He [Jesus] asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.” Jesus already knew what was going to happen, but He invited his disciples into the action.

Philip is too caught up in the practicality of the situation. He said it’s impossible. Andrew does a little better: He brings a small boy who 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. But then he said that it

probably wouldn't go that far anyhow. We do this all the time when it comes to being intentionally with our blessing others. We can get caught up in the convenience and practicality like Philip. Or, because we think that we only have a little and it won't make a difference, we just say, "But what good can what I bring to the table actually do?"

As we know, Jesus feeds everyone (with leftovers to boot). But the real blessing comes next. You see the crowd finds Jesus the next day because they want more food and a sign from him. He engages in a dialogue with them in which He reaches into the depth of their hearts to show them that what they really need is *Him*, the bread of life.

You see when it comes to being Intentionally Blessing, we can do all the good things we want to for other in the world, but if we don't ever tell anyone about Jesus and share His gospel then it's all for nothing. The good things we do point to greatest of all time: Jesus and His saving grace. Yes we bless because we are blessed, but we have to remember that the ultimate blessing we have received is eternal life with Christ. Are you living a life that points others to that reality is both deed *and* word?

Discussion Questions

1. What are some very practical ways that you Intentionally Bless others in your life? If you aren't engaged in that practice, what could you do on a regular basis to bless those around you?
2. What typically stops you from being intentionally blessing? Are you like Philip: too worried about the practicalities? Are you like Andrew: You think the little you have to bring isn't enough? Just inconvenience? Selfishness? Other reasons?
3. Jesus already knew that he was going to feed everyone in the crowd that day. We read in John 6:6 that he was testing Philip. Jesus often tests our faith to see if are willing to come along with Him in what He's doing in the world around us. Have you ever felt like you had a "test of faith" from Jesus as it pertains to joining in His work? Did you engage or did you ignore it? What happened?
4. The best blessing we can give the world around us is the Gospel of Jesus. The good news of His saving grace. What happens in our world when Christians do good things for others but never tie it together with telling others about Jesus? Why do you think we do this?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:15. How does this verse change the way you think about Intentionally Blessing those around you?
6. Make a list of 3-5 people who do not know Jesus that you can intentionally bless this week. Pray for opportunities to not only bless them, but to tie that blessing to the work and person of Jesus.