

Tuning-up your ears!

This is a true story:

Bent and Margit Madsen are married for more than 50 years now.

I began my friendship to Bent because he is also a musician and he asked for my help teaching music to his “musical group for elder people” in church.

One day, I was visiting Bent and Margit’s home for dinner. Somehow, Bent and I started talking about how wonderful human ears are, and how different people react to music... His wife Margit took a long time before jumping into the conversation saying:

“Some years ago Bent lost his job. Therefore, as he was looking for a new employment, he stayed home for a couple of weeks.

During this time at home, I noticed that he was having some kind of hearing problems...” she said.

* “When I called him, he never answered me! ...”

* “I had to repeat many times to get some reaction back from him!”

* “Sometimes, I had to leave everything and take a walk all around the house to touch his shoulder in order to grab his attention!”

“I was so tired of this situation!” Margit said with a heavy voice. “One day I took him to the clinic for a “hearing check”... “

“After many extensive hearing tests, the doctor came to me saying:

* Why did you ask for a test? Bent hearing is still perfect!”

Therefore, I told him he would not hear a thing. Margit said”

* Very polite, the doctor paid attention to my story. So, when I finished my narrative, Margit said: The doctor took a long time to respond and looked at me very serious telling me: “My dear, there's no one more deaf than he who does not want to hear”

Today on my sermon you may find some misusing of verbs,

pronouns or even you will find misspelling on words. You may find mistakes on my grammar and syntaxes! However, please keep your focus and attention with a sincere heart trying to hear! Above all, I hope you are paying attention not only to “how I formulate a sentence on my sermon”, but paying attention on “what I am trying to say” behind all the words and sentences. You may read between lines, and beyond any mistakes. You can find the Lord’s message for you today. Only focus on HIM!

Can we all fine-tuning our ears today?

Please, not only pay attention to my sermon trying to understand “what am I talking about”. Far beyond of using attention to my words, please make your best to use the ears of your heart. Tuning-up your spiritual ears to the heavenly frequency of the Holy Spirit.

I am sure that the Lord have something special for you, if you build up your expectancy upon HIM (in God).

Here we read about the spring seasons of the church on the very early beginning! Also, shows the Lord’s diverse ways on calling His disciples. We see the Lord interacting/reacting/calling the first disciples in different ways.

I have done some remarks on this passage. The idea of these remarks is to make the point and make noticeable the topic of this sermon.

Let me build up the foundation of my sermon on the remarks of this Bible passage, showing the true that lays under the surface of this remarks!

I do not want to talk to you about John the Baptist amazing declaration!

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
v.29

Or I don’t even want to talk about the amazing way of summarizing the whole gospel message on this very simple and deep declaration!

I do not want to talk about John the Baptist, who have one of the leading roles on the story being one of the principal actors. John the Baptist is intentional pointing to the eternal redemptive sacrificial role of Jesus! No. I do not want to talk about this amazing doctrine.

Every one of these subjects are amazing and deserved to be preached. However, today I want to drive your attention to something that is not obvious. I have done some remarks to help me in showing the idea, seeking for you to notice A PATTERN / THE PROCESS!

John 1:35-46 (only remarks) Please, pay attention to the remarks only and there you will find a “Pattern/a Process” **that we can easily learn for today!**
“Behold, the Lamb of God!”
“What are you seeking?”
“Come and see.”

He first found his own brother
He brought him to Jesus.
He (Jesus) found Philip
Philip found Nathanael and said,
“We have found him
Jesus of Nazareth,
“Come and see.”

Have you noticed how many times the verb “Found”, “Find” and “We have found!” is mentioned in 10 verses? Not only that, but also please pay attention that Jesus reveals himself as “heart-searcher”. Jesus sees people’s heart even before they come to HIM!

On the very first part of the story (vs. 35–43) we read about the first two disciples of Jesus: Andrew and John facing a compelling question and a wonderful invitation: What are you seeking? ... “Come and see”!

Next day, Andrew invite Peter due to his own encounter with

Jesus. Therefore, Peter became the first soul than a disciple ever brought to Jesus! With this Andrew have showed us a pattern/model than we can use today!

You and me, we are disciples from a different time and from different culture but we can easily use this pattern/model today! We must lead the people around us to Jesus! Inviting them and bringing them directly to Jesus!

Please stop arguing with non-believers about doctrines and existentialism before you bring them to Christ! Just stop arguing and invite them to meet Jesus... from that point, when Jesus meets the people, He cares himself for his own. Our priority it is just to bring the people to Jesus!

The second part of the story, also on the same line of methodology, we find Philip and Nathanael. Notice Phillip’s invitation: “Come and see;” clearly is only an echo of the word of Jesus to the first two disciples Andrew and John at verse 39: “Come and see”!

This is the pattern / the process. I will like to encourage Grace Church to get involved today in this process, in this pattern. Let us be partners in bringing people to Jesus!

Cause and Effect

GRACE CHURCH VISION STATEMENT for 2017:
“Attracting people to Christ, with love, grace and excellence”

In Grace Church we believe that the primary goal and primary purpose for church it must be to reach-out to the non-believers. There is no greater mission than this!

... 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. Jn. 3:16.

One soul, only one soul is priceless for God! (and indeed, it is for us too in Grace Church!). The value for a soul is priceless regardless of any human condition: regardless of cultural background, social economic status, age, education, political affiliation, or immigration status. I can say even, that in this church you are allowed to be a “Republican or Democrat”! ... (We do not care!)
None of those things changes how valuable a soul is for GOD!

I say it again: one soul, just one soul is priceless for God!

The title of this sermon is; **how can I serve you?** ... Because I am looking to encourage you to get involved in this subject! For God is a top priority to gain a soul! It should be the same for you and me.
I am praying to the Lord he will open our eyes to see at the people the way God does.

Please, let me re-formulate the question remarks on the title on this sermon: Do you want to serve the Lord doing something relevant for the kingdom of heaven? Then get involved bringing people to Jesus!

Proverbs 11:30 “...He who wins souls is wise.”
This means that when you get involved on the pattern/process “come and see Jesus” you are “being also wise”!

As a pastor, many times I see people in church taking the great Commission emotionally: ... and therefore go and make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19) People say Amen! Confirming the idea of “Going and making disciples” but their reaction is that it is someone else responsibility!
I have news for you!... the bible verse at Mt. 28:19 it's a commandment for every single believer of all times in every place... that includes you and me; here in Desert Hot Springs!

In Grace Church, we believe in miracles and healing. Yes!
We believe in the charisma and manifestations of the Holy

Spirit! Yes!

We also believe the Lord willingness to protect his own people and prosper them... Above all, we strongly believe that there is no way for changing people hearts! God is the only one that can change our hearts!

There is not greater blessing on this earth that can compares to the moment when we receive Jesus as a savior in our hearts!

You can be a partner with Jesus on this project if you decide to get involved!

How can you do it? – Crusade DHS March 24 and 25
Grace church is coordinating an evangelistic crusade on Friday, March 24th and Saturday 25th starting at 6,30 pm.

We have invited a preacher from Demark, Pastor Per Hylgaard.

We are also inviting a special guest, he is a musician, his name is Martin Cantú (he is a pastor and musician, he was the leading voice of a secular music group called “Malo”)

Why are we doing this?... In Grace church we are looking to reach-out the none believers because “**every single soul is priceless!**”

Now Grace Church is inviting you to be **OUR PARTNER**.
This is a “**COME AND SEE**” event.

Let me talk about the process

1. LOOK AROUND: Your mission field is around you!
As I am preaching today, I know that the Holy Spirit is already bringing your friends faces/names into your heart, to invite them to “COME AND SEE” Jesus.

2. LOOK UP:

God changes people through prayer! Jn. 16: 7-8

STOP arguing about God and about the gospel!

Get involved in an “intercession prayer chain “interceding for those you would like to invite”, those who you know in advance, it will be hard to bring them to Jesus.

3. LOOK OUT: Seeking for opportunities to cultivate friendship and confidence. 1 Corinthians 9:22

Be searching for opportunities constantly! Be friendly, in order to attract friends!... Invitations for “COME AND SEE” works only if it is coming from “friends.”

4. LOOK FORWARD:

Begin talking with each person in your list. Choose a date/time and invite them for “COME AND SEE” Jesus.

5. LOOK AFTER: Those who received Jesus need your help, your love and guidance.

NEXT SUNDAY, Write down your name for the “prayer chain,” this way, you can start praying for the people on your list. Today please, write the names on the “Andrew Operation yellow insert” in your bulletins. The names that the Lord already brought to your minds/hearts during this sermon!... you don’t have to write all the seven names now, but if the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for someone. PLEASE do it! - EVERYTHING STARTS ON PRAYER!