



Imitating Jesus: Becoming INTENTIONAL in Reaching Lost and Hurting People

July 29, 2018

The INTENTIONALITY of our LORD

Mat 1:18-21, Mat 18:10-11, Luk 4:16-19, Luk 5:31-32, Luk 19:10, Joh 6:38-40

He commands His disciples to be INTENTIONAL as well!

Mar 16:15, Mat 28:19-20, Luk 24:45-47, Joh 20:21, Act 1:8

*CRCC, let us remember how many hurting people are all around us...and do something about it.
God has shown us so much biblical beauty; let's share it!*

For clarity, what are we trying to do with all this INTENTIONALITY?

1. Preach the **Gospel** (Mark 16:15)
2. Make **Disciples**! (Matt 28:19)
3. Be used by our LORD to Build up His **Church**! (1 Cor 3:10-11; Heb 3:4)

WHAT MIGHT "BEING INTENTIONAL" LOOK LIKE?

INTENTIONAL WITH STRANGERS

1. We are all so busy and distracted. Often we are also wary of strangers (and sometimes rightfully so). But what if we were simply more aware that those around us might be lost and facing a fearful judgment and eternal hell?
2. What can we do?
 - Pray for people as you walk by, sit beside, and interact with them.
 - Pray that we might enter into more polite but intentional conversations and plant Gospel seeds.
 - Pray to become more comfortable testing if the door is open to share the Gospel. "Do you go to church?" "Would you consider yourself a good person?"
 - If nothing else, most will respond okay to: "It's been nice talking with you. Would you mind if I prayed for you and your family?"
3. It's old school, but tracts can still be used to "leave the Gospel" with someone as well.
4. Your local church flyer/contact cards are good too!

INTENTIONAL WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

1. This is similar to strangers above. Maybe add a dinner invite or offer to assist an elderly neighbor with a household chore?
2. Consider giving simple, inexpensive, Gospel-related gifts during holidays (ex. a box of homemade cookies with a tract or dvd sermon)?
3. Be gracious during times of tragedy and offer prayers and support.

4. Invite them to church!

INTENTIONAL WITH RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

1. With relatives and friends, communication is normally easier AND harder (when it comes to spiritual things).
2. Thankfully, normally these relationships can tolerate being a bit more direct (with love).
3. Press in! Start Gospel conversations. Ask for prayer requests and if they will let you, pray with them!
4. Be there during times of difficulty.
5. Go get them and bring them to church!

INTENTIONAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

1. This is a huge area for evangelism! People who may not talk with you will read what you post!
2. Realize testimonies can be lost here and conduct yourself accordingly!
3. Use email/text/Facebook/Instagram, etc. to send tracts, sermons, scriptures, and prayers.
4. Use the same to answer questions about faith and tough issues with friends, family, and internet family. LOL
5. Support your church!

INTENTIONAL WITH YOUR CHILDREN

1. Pray for and with them!
2. Model a godly life!
3. Preach the Gospel in your home and disciple them! Use good tools like family worship and take advantage of teachable moments throughout the day!
4. Help them build a biblical worldview (education) and get hard questions answered (apologetics).
Read at home!
5. Bring them to church and serve alongside them!

INTENTIONAL WITH THE PRIDEFUL

1. One evangelistic principle we observe in Scripture is this: “Law to the proud, grace to the humble” (see the *Way of the Master* material).
2. We will all face prideful hearts as we increase our INTENTIONALITY as a congregation. The prideful heart is rarely ready for grace.
3. The tool in Scripture to “break up the fallow ground (Jer 4:3; Hos 10:12)” is the Law of God:

1Ti 1:8-11 (KJV) But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; 9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; 11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

4. Satan has worked HARD to remove this tool from the Christian's tool belt. But compassion, setting people before an uncompromising standard (God's Law) and warning men of judgment and the wrath to come is the biblical prescription for the hard heart that men may cry out for grace!
5. Often, a pulpit that declares the whole counsel of God can aid with this, whether it's one on the street corner or in the local church...so bring them!

INTENTIONAL WITH THOSE WHO'VE BEEN HURT

1. When people are already broken, shower them with the love of Jesus.
2. Pray with them. Declare Him as the healer of hearts, the binder up of the wounded, and the deliverer of the captive.
3. As you are led, attempt to connect them with those who can help or provide encouragement: a pastor, a Christian counselor, a Care Group, etc.
4. Allow you church family to love on them as well!

APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

(ROM 14:19; EPH 4:9; 1 THES 5:11; JUDE 1:20)

1. Discuss some family ideas for being more intentional!
2. Intentionality includes keeping track of folks and following up with them. When was the last time you engaged in "follow up?"
3. Who needs you to share Scripture with them? Sermons that impacted you? Tools that will bless their marriage, parenting, or money?
4. Who are you discipling? Who have you walked into church membership?
5. A huge part of being more intentional is living a more prayerful life. Will you commit to this?