

Week 4 of Series 'Takin it to the Streets'

A Burdened Heart for the Lost, 09-06-15

“With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters.^[a] I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.” -Romans 9:1-3, NLT

The Apostle Paul

- He took his faith to the Streets!
- He was motivated out of concern for other's eternal destiny: would they die and go to Hell or be with God forever?
- This motivation, this burden, impacted the way he viewed others and how he shared his faith

Do you have a burden for lost people?

What is a burden?

- Is a motivation, a pull or a push against us that gets us to do what doesn't come naturally
- More than that, it is having a heart that is broken

Some people' burdens:

- Rescue animals, endangered species, lions in Africa...
- We spend lot's of time, energy and resources on these things

What about a burden for what really matters?

Salvation and a relationship with God? A spiritual burden is having a broken heart:

- over the lost-ness of people's souls
- It's caring for people's souls
- In fact we are getting ready to support a missionary in Germany who is beginning to tell others about Jesus there.

What's your burden? What saddens you when you see it? Does your burden include people who are lost?

Our challenge:

- to overcome spiritual apathy and our lack of care for people's souls
- **To care for local People in our community who are dying without Jesus!**
- Who will pray for them? Who will invite them? Who will tell them the story of Jesus?

Paul was burdened, broken hearted for the lost around him...we need to be, too

To have a Burdened Heart I will:

1. Pray for myself and others

- Admit to God you don't have a burden for people like you should
- Admit to yourself that people are lost without Jesus. Do you really believe this? Your mom and dad? Your husband or wife? Your children? Co-workers? Teacher at school.....**do you care?!**
- Start to pray for lost people

-Prayer pins my heart to my loved ones
-Prayer reminds me of God's power
-Prayer will change my view of others

Sample prayer: "God, I pray for _____ to be saved. Open their heart to you. Lead them to Jesus."

- Develop a prayer list for lost people you know. How do you know if someone is lost? Ask them about Jesus!

(To have a Burdened Heart I will pray and then I will)

2. Let my heart be moved

- Moses grieved that people sinned
"So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a terrible sin these people have committed. They have made gods of gold for themselves. But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!" -Ex. 32:31-32, NLT
- Jesus saw people and had compassion
"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." -Matthew 9:36, NLT
- When's the last time you were moved by the plight of others?
Enough to get involved?
 - Do you pray when you see injustice or simply complain at lunch with your friends?
 - Is your heart filled with compassion or disdain for lost people and the things they do?
 - Be moved and then bring your burden to to God!

(To have a Burdened Heart I will pray, let my heart be moved and then I will)

3. Leave a critical spirit behind

- Cynicism is believing that people are motivated by self-interest.
Words we use: skeptical, suspicious
- You hear a friend talking about the problem families have making ends meet in our community. You reply:
"Well, if they would get off welfare and find a job things would improve for them"

Where is the compassion? The caring? The burden for their condition?

- You see someone new from town come to our church. On Monday you tell your friend “The only reason they came was for the donuts and coffee!”
 - A critical spirit misjudges the hearts of others
 - There is no room for God’s grace or activity
 - A burden for their soul can only be founded when we step back from passing judgment on them

(So to have a Burdened Heart I will pray, let my heart be moved, leave a critical spirit behind and then I will)

4. Ask God For a Burden for Souls (the real you!)

- Funny, but this should be our constant prayer!

Pray that God gives you:

- An eternal perspective of others around you &
- A desire for others to be saved

- Ask God to break your heart, and make you care about the lost!

- To make you care about the SOULS of your co-workers; your brothers, sisters; your neighbors; just anyone you meet!

Friend’s Day Opportunity (insert sheet)

1. A burden starts with the people we know (Paul)
2. Write down 1 name today who you can invite
3. We pray for their salvation
4. We invite them to journey with Jesus
5. We are intentional....and we don’t stop caring
6. Who will you be burdened for this week for Jesus?