

SERMON TOPIC: CHANGE YOUR WORLD

SERMON OUTLINE

(Matthew 5:14-16 TLB) You are the world’s light—a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father.

(Jeremiah 15:19 NLT) You are to influence them; do not let them influence you!

(2 Corinthians 10:13-16 ESV) ...the area of influence God assigned to us is to reach you... But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence may be greatly enlarged, so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you.

INTRODUCTION

We all desire to make a difference in our own world. The secret to changing the world we live in is using our influence to make a difference for the Kingdom. In this series we are learning that we are all part of a sphere of influence that, if we leverage properly, can literally change our world. Equipped with this understanding of God-given influence, we will all begin to make a difference that's beyond what we have ever dreamed!

KEY POINTS

ONE PERSON AT A TIME

We need to become aware.

(2 Corinthians 5:20 NLT) So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us.

(1 Corinthians 3:6 LB) My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos’ work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts.

Commit to prayer.

Pray that the Father would draw them to Jesus (John 6:44).

Pray against the spirit that blinds their minds (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Pray that they come to know God relationally (Romans 8:15).

Pray that believers will cross their paths and enter into positive relationships with them (Matthew 9:38).

Pray for a revelation of who Jesus is and what He has done for them (Ephesians 1:17).

Show you care, be authentic

(Luke 19:1-10 TLB) As Jesus was passing through Jericho, a man named Zacchaeus, one of the most influential Jews in the Roman tax-collecting business (and, of course, a very rich man), tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowds. So he ran ahead and climbed into a sycamore tree beside the road, to watch from there. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name! “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick! Come down! For I am going to be a guest in your home today!” Zacchaeus hurriedly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the crowds were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “Sir, from now on I will give half my wealth to the poor, and if I find I have overcharged anyone on his taxes, I will penalize myself by giving him back four times as much!” Jesus told him, “This shows that salvation has come to this home today. This man was one of the lost sons of Abraham, and I, the Messiah, have come to search for and to save such souls as his.”

(1 Corinthians 9:19-23) Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible... I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Be ready to share.

(1 Peter 3:15) Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

(Acts 20:24 NCV) The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me – to tell people the Good News about God’s grace.

SUMMARY

God's deepest desire is for man to be in relationship with Him. God is always talking if we just knew how to listen. Evangelism is showing people how God is already working in their lives. What would happen if you showed people, in your circle of influence, how God was already using them? What if you helped them to see their giftings and God-given passions?

