

Week 4 – Grander Vision Living

Introduction

- This week we want to look at Jesus own approach to Walking Across The Room – his wonderful vision for how to touch the lives of those who don't know him yet
- We need to follow Jesus' example
 - Bridging the Chasm
 - Asking questions
 - Practicing patience
 - Beware of '*rabbit trails*'
 - Giving hope to the hopeless
- We need to adopt an approach of *radical inclusiveness*
- We need to avoid trying to be a 'lifestyle referee'
- And we need to take practical steps
- Such as holding a "Matthew Party"

Putting it into practice

1. Have you ever felt that being a Christian necessarily meant that you had to become a "lifestyle referee" to the world around you? How did it strike you when Bill said that Christ-followers are under no obligation to play such a role?
2. What do you think of the "Matthew Party" concept – an event where you invite a few Christ-followers, several seekers, and several people who want nothing to do with God – as presented in this session's video?
3. Whether or not you've ever been involved in a Matthew Party, what fears or concerns would you have have about hosting one now?
4. Besides the "highs and lows" exercise employed by the group in ths video, do you have any other suggestions as to how to invite meaningful conversation during a Matthew Party?

The work of the Holy Spirit

In throwing a Matthew Party the hope, as Bill mentioned in the video, is that in the midst of a social atmosphere, something spiritual would ignite. Seeing this happen will remind us how crucial it is to tap into God's supernatural power that's alive and well in the heart of every believer. The stakes are simply too high in evangelistic situations to 'go it alone'.

5. Based on the following verses, what do you learn about the Holy Spirit's involvement in the life of the Christ-follower?

John 14.16-21

Acts 1.8

Romans 8.26-27

6. How can Christ-followers cultivate God's degree of patience when it doesn't seem like any spiritual progress is being made in the lives of people they care about deeply?
7. In the video Jim mentioned that the trust he and Bill forged in their relationship played a key role in Jim reopening his heart to spiritual dialogue. Based on what you have learned so far in the four sessions, what are some of the ways you can build trust with people who are far from God, so that when things finally turn in a spiritual directions, they are confident that you have their best interests at heart?

Responding personally – your own “Matthew Party”

7. We've heard that Matthew Parties don't have to be formal or expensive or perfectly orchestrated. They just have to happen. Take a few minutes to think about the kind of gathering you might be able to hold.
8. Bill talks about 3 categories of guests who we might invite. Jot down a few names of people who you might invite in each category.

Those living extremely far from God

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Those in the “Seeker Slow Lane”

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Devoted Christ followers

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

9. What would you like to see God do as a result of your Matthew Party? In the space below write a few words about your special goal for this event.

Praying in the will of God

10. The very best way to make sure that this course is not allowed to fade away is to commit ourselves to renewed prayer for those we know who are not yet Christ-followers
- As you pray ask for your worldview to align with God’s, that all people will come to faith in him and live with him forever
 - Pray that he would renew your hope in the power of the gospel to change people’s lives forever
 - Pray for doors to be open to you as you seek to share Christ’s message (Colossians 4.3-4)
 - Ask for the Holy Spirit to direct everything we do and say
 - Pray that God will silence the voices of doubt that seem to dishearten and destroy efforts to share Christ with others – ask the Lord to help us stand firm (1 Corinthians 15.58)
 - Pray that we will be willing to pay the price of time and energy – and that we will be open to being used in new and different ways to lead people to faith in Christ
 - Pray that hearts will be changed
 - Finally let’s tell God that we are prepared to be used by God in changing people’s lives and ask him to enable us to devote ourselves to being a walk-across-the-room person