

Bridging

Who Is PCI? - part 5

February 3, 2013

We wrap up our 5-"B" series: Broken; Beloved; Belonging; Building; Bridging.

DAY 1

1. Jesus Christ's coming to Earth was a fulfillment of prophecy. The metaphor, "darkness," precipitated the reason for His coming. How does Matthew describe man's plight?

Matthew 4:16 "... the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

a. 4:16a--

b. 4:16b--

2. God says that mankind walks in "darkness." How do you see that? Jot down an example next to some of these areas:

a. Sinful man's understanding about God:

b. Sinful man's understanding about ourselves:

c. Sinful man's understanding about people/ human nature:

d. Sinful man's understanding about relationships:

John 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

3. John writes that men "loved darkness." What does that mean?

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

4. What did Jesus do for us?

5. What are we to do in response?

DAY 2

We continue with "Bridging": taking the good news of the gospel to the world.

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

1. What was man's position before coming to Jesus?

2. "What" is the light of the world?

3. What does Jesus say we need to do so we can walk in the light?

4. What does Jesus promise to those who follow Him?

Acts 26:18 "...to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

5. In Acts 26:18, Paul recounts the mission Jesus gave to him. (It is Jesus speaking in this verse).
 - a. What two dilemmas does Jesus say we all suffer from?

 - b. What part of our anatomy is faulty?

 - c. What two things does Jesus want to give us?

"a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

6. "Sanctified" means "to be set apart for God's holy purposes." God sets *YOU* apart for His purposes! You have a place at His table! You matter to Him.

7. Look back over the last two days' notes at what God has done for you. Of what are you most grateful?

DAY 3

See if you can fill in the 5 "B"s: Bro_____; Belov____; Belon____; Buil____; Brid_____;

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

1. Yesterday, we looked at a verse where Jesus described Himself as the light of the world. But, He is not alone. When He comes into our hearts as Lord, that light has a chance to shine through us! What two illustrations does Jesus give in these verses?

2. What is He illustrating by these two analogies?

3. What are some ways Christians might "hide" their light?

4. Our light is to shine so that people see our "good deeds." What are some "good deeds" you could do for others?

5. What reason does Jesus give for doing "good deeds"?

6. The point of "bridging" is to build a bridge from PEOPLE to GOD. Jot down the names of some people who need to a "bridge" to God:

7. Pray that God would open their eyes to the truth of the gospel.

8. What is a "good deed" you can do today?

DAY 4

"Bridging" continued...

Isaiah 42:5 This is what God the LORD says-- he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it...

1. What three things has God already done for us, in 42:5?

Isaiah 42:6 "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles...."

2. What four things does God add, in 42:6?

3. God makes us "a covenant for the people." What do you think that means?

(God wants to use us to take His covenant promises of salvation to people who don't know Him. We become the "taker" of the covenant to those not walking with God).

Isaiah 42:7... to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

4. What are the problems people around us suffer from? List at least three (Skittles on Sunday if you can find a fourth!)

5. This is the gigantic story line played out all around the world. The big story is not in Washington D.C. It is not in the White House or the Senate. It is not the "power brokers" or "movers and shakers" in capital cities. The biggest story line involves a BIG God and you!!!

a. Pray over the people you listed in yesterday's notes.

b. Were you able to do something for someone yesterday?

c. What is something you can do today?

DAY 5

Bridging is our mandate. You have a high purpose. Unfortunately, we can develop a bad attitude about a good purpose! Today we'll look at the attitudes of Christians who made a difference!

2 Corinthians 12:15 So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well. If I love you more, will you love me less?

1. What do you think Paul means by these statements:

a. "Spend for you everything I have" -

b. "Expend myself as well" -

2. Re-write the first sentence in your own words.

3. That first sentence begins with a statement about his attitude in this matter. What does he say?

4. Sometimes, ministering to others is tough. Sometimes, it seems like a one-way relationship. You are the one taking the initiative, doing the good deeds, and caring. How does Paul deal with this reality in his own heart? (Look at the 2nd sentence in 12:15).

Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing,¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe...

5. Two "attitude-busters" are mentioned in 2:14. What are they?

6. Why should we fight these two urges:

a. For YOUR benefit?

b. For OTHERS' benefit?

7. God's grand story is the redemption of a wayward and rebellious people. Amazingly, He's chosen to use people like you and me! In the Old Testament, Israel's temptation was to keep the light for themselves. They were rarely good at taking the light to the pagans around them. What about you? Will you engage with the people God has put around you?

8. One last stab at the "B"s: Bro_____; Belov_____; Belon_____; Buil_____; Brid_____;