

Vineyard Values Series: Multiplication - Expanding the Kingdom of God

Opening thoughts

Vision of Vineyard Boise

To develop authentic, reproducible, Spirit-filled, Christian disciples.

Values

- Worship
- The Word
- Multiplication
- Prayer
- Ministry
- Stewardship
- Fellowship

A harvest field ripe for spiritual awakening

My last three weeks – An awareness of the world condition and the time in which we live. I was three places in three weeks.

1. Chesapeake Bay - Axiom conversations – “Rele-vate” - relevant / renovate.
 - Christian influencers from various sector of American society.
 - Movie and entertainment industry
 - Writers and authors
 - Economic and business sector
 - Cutting edge Christian ministry leaders.
 - Sojourners
 - The Simple Way
 - XXX Church
 - Mars Hill
 - Chuck Colson’s Prison Fellowship
 - Various Christian agencies focused on social justice
 - A forum to discuss Christianity and to major problems of society.
 - Environment
 - Human trafficking
 - Genocide
 - Ramifications of a sifting world economy and power
2. National Vineyard church leadership conference in Santiago, Chile.

3. The poverty of Paraguay
 - 30% unemployment – economic disaster.
 - A fatherless nation of brokenness.

On my journey I waited in countless airport lines in the midst of the mass of humanity. I saw people crammed on busses and subways. Everyone was frantically talking on cell phones. I noticed the constant use of sensual advertising. I couldn't help notice that the world is undergoing rapid cultural change.

I believe that the Lord took me on this journey to see first hand how desperate the world is for Jesus and how ripe the world is to receive him.

Key Texts

Matthew 9

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

- The harvest represents seasons of ripeness – when humanity is most ready and hungry for the Kingdom of God.

Luke 10 - Jesus Sends Out His Disciples

1 The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them on ahead in pairs to all the towns and villages he planned to visit. 2 These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, and ask him to send out more workers for his fields.

3 Go now, (*The commission*) and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Don't take along any money, or a traveler's bag, or even an extra pair of sandals. And don't stop to greet anyone on the road. 5 "Whenever you enter a home, give it your blessing. 6 If those who live there are worthy, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. 7 When you enter a town, don't move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide you. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay. (*Jesus was equipping this saints for the work of the ministry*)

8 "If a town welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you 9 and heal the sick. As you heal them, say, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.' 10 But if a town refuses to welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'We wipe the dust of your town from our feet as a public announcement of your doom. And don't (you) forget the Kingdom of God is near!'

12 The truth is, even wicked Sodom will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.

13 "What horrors await you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have sat in deep repentance long ago, clothed in sackcloth and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. 14 Yes, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on the judgment day than you. 15 And you people of Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to the place of the dead." (*Speaks of a non-repentant society*)

who reject a relationship with God.) 16Then he said to the disciples, "Anyone who accepts your message (*The Gospel*) is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God who sent me." (*Message of the Kingdom*)

17When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" 18"Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning! 19And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. 20But don't rejoice just because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered as citizens of heaven." (*The greatest spiritual warfare is through the equipping and sending of the laity to proclaim the Kingdom*)

- When Satan loses power the world is released in great spiritual awakenings. That happens only when the true church rises up in faith, power and participation.
- Historically God has seemed to prepare and ripen societies for seasons of harvest. We call this revival or awakening.

The Biblical/Historical Model for Spiritual Awakening

1. 400 years of silence spiritual decline from Nehemiah to John the Baptist. [*Era of the Maccabees*] Jewish struggle for identity and tradition during the invasions, influences and oppressions of Egyptian, Greek and Roman culture and political power.
 - God's preparation for harvest
 - Modernization of transportation and communication – Paved roads from Ireland to Egypt
 - A new morality imposed upon Israel infiltrating the purity of their faith.
 - Judaism attempted to integrate into the political system to maintain some control.
2. Spiritual decline and deadening – Ritual, legalism and political maneuvering
 - Jews used legalism for control over their own people.
 - A dead irrelevant religious system that couldn't address the underlying fears and pain of society.
 - They lost their compass.
3. The era of the Gospels – the revival and equipping of a remnant of believers
 - John the Baptist – a call to repentance and radical faith.
 - Jesus is central – teaching, ministry and discipling.
 - The Kingdom of God is clearly presented.
4. Pentecost – ignition of the Holy Spirit, the curtain ripped open
 - We can go in – intimacy with God.
 - He came out into humanity.
5. Lifestyle of an awakened people (Story of Acts)
 - Hunger for biblical truth
 - Corporate worship
 - Participation in ministry
6. Evangelism becomes a natural part of everyone's life. A clear proclamation and demonstration of the Kingdom that penetrates and draws a lost society. (Acts 2)
7. The organization of the church for effectiveness and expansion (Instruction of the New Testament epistles)

Seven Common Denominators in Spiritual Awakening

1. Cultural disjuncture
 - traditions are shaken
 - trusts are broken
2. Religious routinization
3. A remnant people of faith rise up in zeal, passion and sacrificial commitment.
 - Reaction to status quo religion
 - Radical prophetic voices calling for authentic repentance and reformation.
 - A call to the pure and simple gospel – Jesus is the central message
 - Authenticity
 - Faith that will withstand persecution
 - True disciples are equipped
4. Visitation of the Spirit falls on the potential leaders for empowerment.
5. Radical proclamation of the Kingdom goes out into a lost society who is hungering for truth.
6. Grass roots proclamation of the Kingdom through words and works.
 - Worship, Bible study and ministry go into the hands of every Christian believer.
 - Evangelism becomes a natural part of every believer.
7. Structural and organizational support for an expanding move of God.

Martin Luther and the Reformation and the Birth of Protestantism

- Disjuncture - From the fall of Rome to 1500's, a time of great social and religious darkness and political corruptness often referred to as the "Dark or middle ages".
- Oppression of Roman Catholicism. A corrupt religious/political system at the time.
- Martin Luther reads the book of Romans and is revived by the message of salvation by grace.
- The Bible is translated for the first time into the language of the day.
- Worship goes to the people.
- Ministry is spread by the laity across the civilized world and is organized in the Protestant reformation.

John Wesley - The Great Awakening and the birth of evangelicalism.

- Disjuncture – Industrialization of Europe
- Dead religion – Church of England
- The John the Baptist revival of that day – Moravians at Herrnhut
- Ignition of the Spirit (a Pentecost experience)– All night prayer meeting - Fetter Lane, London – Jan. 1st 1739
- Proclamation – Was rejected by most established churches and began his preaching in open air and tents across the country side.
 - Jesus is the way
 - Repentance and forgiveness of sin
 - The Kingdom to come - eternity
- Bible study and worship –
 - King James 1611 – In common man's language of that day.
 - Pub songs rewritten to new lyrics

- Structure and organization – Methodists

The Question – If this pattern holds true are we in a time of ripe harvest?

- Cultural disjuncture – A gradual decline that began after the Christian zeal that established the country. Our forefathers were effected by the Great awakening and in reaction to the Church of England.
- The established church had become routine and wasn't scratching the itch of a hurting new generation of seekers.
- "Jesus movement" was birth out of hunger for truth.
 - Bible was central – half dozen new translations and paraphrases became available. NAS – NIV – Living Bible – Good News for modern Man
 - A new worship was birthed
 - A leadership was equipped with zeal
 - Prophetic voices spoke
 - Lifestyles were changed in repentance
- Charismatic renewal was an ignition of the Spirit.
 - We were challenged for greater things.
 - We became aware of the Spirit realm in a greater way.
 - We embraced the works of Jesus, and not just the words alone.
- Is the harvest is ripe?
 - The world is groaning with disjuncture and confusion.
 - It is like a great volcano that is heaving beneath the surface
 - The family is broken
 - Prosperity and affluence failed to give true meaning
 - Our government can't seem deliver peace, security and unity.
 - The global environment is threatening life itself.
 - Our natural resources are running short.
 - The world is morally confused – the compass has been lost.
- Will we seize the moment?
- Will we embrace this Kingdom value of multiplication?
- Are we that group of zealous, impassioned faith filled people that will proclaim the Kingdom of God at an hour when so many are hungry to hear it and see it lived out?
- Will we build a work force and an expanding leadership to go into all the world starting here in Boise, Idaho?

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