

# Deliberately Touching Jesus

## Sunday, February 5, 2012

### Week 5 - Through Our Work

#### Ramp: **Bumper sticker images**

- What is it with bumper stickers?
- People want you to know who they are and what they believe in by the stickers on their car
- I've personally never gotten into that
- Who came up with the 1st Christian bumper sticker?
- Somehow we have to put a sticker on our car to be able to proclaim to people who we are and what we believe?

#### ***Whole premise of series - our lives should tell the story!***

#### New year

- God challenged me with an idea
- Came from story of this woman in Luke 8
- She was desperate
- **“Someone deliberately touched me.”**

#### Caused a whole bunch of questions

- What does it look like to deliberately touch Jesus?
- Why don't I try and deliberately touch Jesus more?
- Why do I wait until I am desperate to deliberately try and touch Jesus?

#### **How do we deliberately touch Jesus in every area of our lives?**

- Worship
  - **We glorify God by lifting up Jesus.**
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  - **Jesus is Lord and money is a tool.**
- Ryan & Mr. Brown
  - **Our purpose is to glorify God in everything.**
- Last Week - wholeness
  - **“Honor God with your body.”**

Re-title these messages: The Meddling God.

#### **Work**

#### **Colossians 3**

#### Context

- One of the early churches.
    - City of Colosse at one time was a major center of travel
    - Now it was pretty small
  - Great mixture of people - primarily Gentiles
  - Paul never visited - connected via Onesimus & Epaphras
- #### Danger of heresy arising
- Undermining the person of Christ as both God and man
  - Paul is writing to address some of these issues
  - Opens with great description of Christ
  - Calls the people to live into a new life with Christ

#### **Colossians 2:6-10**

- Let your roots grow down deep into Christ
- He makes you complete

#### **Colossians 3:1-4**

- Live into eternity now
- This new life is connected to the Kingdom of Heaven, just like Jesus taught when He was here.

#### **Colossians 3:16-4:1**

- This is where practicalities of this life get lived out
- This is where the “rubber meets the road.”

#### **Marriage - Family - Work**

- Three areas of life where this new life in Christ are to be lived out.
- Relationship between husbands & wives
- Relationship between parents & children
- Relationship between masters & slaves

- Employers & employees
- Work

Going to spend significant time unpacking marriages next week & families in two weeks

- This morning - focus on work

### **Framework: Mutual Submission & Respect**

#### Marriages

- Custom of that day - women had no standing
  - Hebrew and Greek/Gentile couples
  - Man was in total control
- Paul says the women have responsibility, but so do the men.
- More on that next week!

#### Families

- Custom of that day - children had no standing
  - Hebrew & Greek/Gentile families
  - Parents - particularly the father - total control over the children
  - Part of the reason Paul speaks to fathers here
- Children have a responsibility, but so do the parents, especially the fathers
- More on that next week!

#### Slaves

- Obey - in whatever you do.
  - This is your job
- Try to please them
  - All the time
  - Not just when they are watching
    - "When the cats away...."
- Serve them sincerely

This is your job - it's what you are supposed to do

- Nothing too revolutionary about this so far

#### Masters

- Be Just & Fair
  - Treat them well
  - Treat them with respect
  - Don't lord it over them just because you can!
- They are people too - not just commodities
  - That's what they were in that culture
  - Total owners
  - Like owning a sheep
  - Mine to do with whatever I want

Example: I had the right to kill my slave if I wanted

- Any children my slave has is also my property

Paul is making a case for a radical departure from normal

- You are called to live a new life in Christ
  - That should impact all of your relationships
- Marriages
- Families
- Even your working relationships
- Framework: Mutual submission and respect

2 significant pieces to drive this home

### **"Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus...." Colossians 3:17**

- Paul - "As you live out this new life in Christ..."
  - Impacts every facet of your lives
  - Even changes the way you relate
    - Marriages - families - work
- You are a representative of Christ in all of those relationships

- Especially in your work!

### **Our work represents Christ.**

Practically for us

- Employee
  - Way you work should represent the person and character of Christ living in you
  - Work with honor
    - Even when the boss isn't looking!
  - Work with integrity
    - Even when the boss isn't looking!
  - Do your best because you are representing the person and character of Christ in your work
- Employer - Boss
  - Way you work, especially the way you treat your employees represents the person and character of Christ living in you
  - Work with honor
    - Treat them with respect because the way you treat your employees (team members) is a representation of Christ
  - Work with integrity
  - Do your best
- You are representing the person and character of Christ in all of your decisions

Make no mistake about it - people are watching!

### **“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” Colossians 3:23**

- Paul - “As you live out this new life in Christ...”
  - Impacts every facet of your lives
  - Even changes the way you relate
    - Marriages - families - work
- You are a representative of Christ in all of those relationships
- As if you are looking into His eyes in those relationships
- Even in your work!
- You work as if you are working for Him.

### **Our work honors Christ.**

Practically for us

- Employee
  - Way you work for your boss is as if you are working for Christ
    - How would you work for Him?
- Employers - Boss
  - Way you work and the way you treat your employees should be the way you would be treating Jesus
    - How would you treat Him if he was your employee?

Make no mistake about it - people are watching!

### **Bumper stickers**

- **My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter**
  - Get where this came from
  - 4:1 - you have a Master in heaven
  - Jesus really is all of our bosses

I would rather deliberately touch Jesus through my work so I don't need a bumper sticker for people to know that!

**Our work represents Christ.**

**Our work honors Christ.**