

Deliberately Touching Jesus

Sunday, February 19, 2012

Week 7 - Through Our Families

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.**
- \$\$
 - **Jesus is Lord and money is a tool.**
- Ryan & Mr. Brown
 - **Our purpose is to glorify God in everything.**
- Wholeness
 - **“Honor God with your body.”**
- Work
 - **We represent & honor Christ through our work.**
- Marriage
 - **By showing preference we demonstrate God to the world.**

Ramp: Shaw's birth (**Baby Picture**)

- Incredible gift!
- Tremendous Burden!

Enemy of our souls & families tries to blur those lines

Families

Framework: Mutual Submission & Respect

- Colossians & Ephesians from past 2 weeks

And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

3 texts - give us specifics of what this looks like in families

Colossians 3:20-21

Ephesians 6:1-4

- Speaks to both children & fathers
- Didn't need to say much to children
 - they were supposed to obey
- Fathers had all power
 - Paul is elevating the status of children too
 - Just like women

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

- God has given the laws to Moses & people
- going to bring them into the promised land
- Your whole families must follow these laws

3 texts together

- As you live out the life of following God in OT
- As you live out the life of following Jesus and the Spirit in the NT
- Good strong families are a part of the blessing and promise of God!

We are gifts and blessings to each other!

- Parents - your children are gifts from God
- Kids - your parents are gifts from God
- None of us got to choose!
- God chose for us.
- May not feel like your family is a gift, but that was God's intention!

What do we do with these gifts?

- How do we deliberately touch Jesus through our families?

Accept the gift

- Start by recognizing that they actually are gifts
- God's intention is for our families to be a source of blessing and promise
- Accept and take responsibility for the gift he has given to us

Parents

- Take responsibility for the role we have been given
- We are the primary source of spiritual formation/influence/discipleship for our kids
 - Can't leave that up to Pastor Beau & his team or Pastor Ryan and his team

If we are going to accept the gift and blessing of our children, we must be willing to take on the responsibility that is ours

Kids

- Trust God
- Believe He gave you your parents for a reason
- Most of the time they are doing what they are doing because they love you
 - More than you can imagine!
- What if you don't have parents like that?
- Still trust God
 - Even if you think they are horrible!
 - Even if they are horrible!
 - Is it possible God can use the difficulty of your life with your parents to continue to mold and shape you into the person He desires you to be?

If we are going to accept the gift and blessing of our parents, we must be willing to trust God in the process.

Church

- We are a faith family
 - We need to accept that we need to become grandfathers and grandmothers
 - Fathers & mothers
 - Brothers & sisters to each other!

If we as a church are going to accept the gift and blessing of God together, we must recognize we are a faith family!

We must accept the gift of each other!

Nurture the gift

- Work at cultivating the gift
- If we don't work at these relationships they will naturally atrophy

Parents

Connecting life to God's story

- Love language of Deuteronomy here!
 - repeat them again and again
 - talk about them at home
 - when your on the road
 - when you are going to bed
 - when you are getting up
 - tie them on your hands
 - wear them on your foreheads
 - write them on the doorposts of your houses
- Everywhere & all the time!

Spiritual formation and discipleship of our kids happens best in the context of life!

- Looking for ways to connect the normal parts of life back into the life and story of God

If we are going to nurture the gift and blessing of our children, we must be willing to work at it!

Kids

Honor & Obey

- Pretty clear from these verse
- Lots of other places in the scriptures

Honor - what does that look like?

- Respect their authority - even if you don't agree!
- Attitude!!!

Obey - what does that look like?

- Do what they ask, even if you don't understand it or agree with it!
- Actions!!

Honor - attitude

Obey - actions

If we are going to nurture the gift and blessing of our parents, we must be willing to honor and obey them.

Church

We've got to pitch in!

- Can't leave this up to Beau and Ryan
- Look for opportunities to come alongside!
- Work in classrooms!
- Become youth staff
- Go on youth trips

If we are going to nurture the gift and blessing of our faith family, we must be willing to pitch in!

Protect the gift

- Enemy is going to do everything in his power to undermine and bring division within these relationships
- Shift from blessing mentality to burden mentality
- We must be willing to protect them!

- We've got each other's backs!

Illustrate - boys at each other - also defend each other

Parents

Don't lord it over them

- Just because we have the authority doesn't mean we should abuse that authority!
 - Time we are the most tempted to do this is when they aren't honoring or obeying
 - When they feel like more of a burden than a blessing
- Colossians & Ephesians - don't make them angry, frustrated
- Don't exasperate them!
- Be the parent - not the child & not their buddy

We need to listen to them

- They aren't a burden - they are a gift
- If we can listen to their hearts, we can see that

If we are going to protect the gift and blessing of our children, we must be willing to not lord over them.

Kids

Living to please God - not your parents.

- Colossians "obey because this pleases the Lord."
- Your job isn't to make your parents happy!
- Your job is to please God - to bring Him glory in all things
 - Even in the way you treat your parents
 - When you honor and obey your parents, you are actually honoring and obeying God in the process
- When you honor God with your life, that means more to me than when you honor me!

If we are going to protect the gift and blessing of our parents, we must be willing to live to please God first.

Church

Pray!

- Both Colossians & Ephesians include call to prayer
- We must recognize that we need God's help if we are going to protect our families
- Enemy would like nothing more than to destroy us
- To cause division
- To create chaos and confusion
- Bring about dishonor and disrespect
- To get us to think our families are a burden, not a blessing!

Illustrate - dysfunctional family

- Total burden!
- Get me out of here.

If we are going to protect the gift and blessing of our faith family, we must be willing to pray!

Embracing the gift opens the door to God's reward.

- Eludes to the promise in Ephesians
- Spells it out in Deuteronomy
 - When you obey, I will take you into the land of abundance
 - You will have long life
 - All made possible because we will be in relationship together and I will be with you.
- Reward of God is His ongoing presence with us.
 - Our families become avenues of grace and joy

Conclusion

Getting ready for Shaw to start the driving process

- **Driving Sign**
- Gift & Burden
- When I accept the gift, and nurture the gift, and protect the gift, I open the door of God's reward - His ongoing presence with us.