

15 Year Anniversary
Greater Works
01/30/21
Newport News

Opening

-Urban Doxology...whewww...Lord, we want our light to break forth like the dawn...Isaiah 58!!!!!! (That's my prayer for the next 15 years!!!)

-I have the best staff team any pastor could ever hope for!!!!!! I probably don't brag on them enough...but what Jesus has accomplished through City Life these last 15 years to date...none of it would have been possible without them!

- Pastor Vanessa...lead pastor
- Pastor Justin...campus pastor
- Pastor David...student ministries
- Chris House...worship and creative arts
- Alise Baldwin...business administrator
- Taylor Baldwin...Riverside Kids (BASP)
- Hannah Godwin...KidLifeClub (Preschool)
- Jonathan Rodgers...media

Introduction

-(tell story of Richmond Braves baseball game soon after my salvation...one of the first times I was uncomfortable for God)

-When is the last time you felt hesitant because God was asking you to do something for Him that made you feel uncomfortable?

-Acts 2:42-47

-I believe God is calling our church to awe the world again today...as it was in the first century... The secular society is waiting and watching. They want to see that that churches are capable of something they believe is otherwise impossible...**AND THE IMPOSSIBLE IS ALWAYS UNCOMFORTABLE!**

-I believe that City Life is supposed to be a community of faith where the world sees people reconciling relationships whose lives seem irreconcilable. A RELATIONSHIP MIRACLE...but sadly we learned to leave.

The Cross & A Cross

-1 Peter 2:24 (The Cross...praise!)

Jesus died on The Cross because we couldn't... but also so we could take up A Cross that we can. To Him AND one another!

-Mathew 16:24-27 (a cross, to His disciples...this isn't just about salvation...)

-Seemingly irreconcilable...

- **Personalities**
- **Doctrinal beliefs**
- **Spiritual gifts**
- **Church Preferences**
- **Politics**
- **World Views**
- **Social Ills**

Imago Dei...stop rejecting a part of God that you don't understand!!!!

-preach (point back to the list above...)

-Romans 5:8 (quote)

-When is the last time you felt hesitant because God was asking you to do something for Him that made you feel uncomfortable...like being a part of a relationship miracle!

Megas Ergon

-John 1:50, 5:20, 14:12-14 (ref. only)

-Is it even in the realm of possibility that one day Christ followers will perform more miracles than Jesus Himself?

-What if Jesus wasn't talking about physical miracles? Is it possible that Jesus was performing miracles on the tangible to inspire faith for miracles on the intangible? (acknowledge miracles were proof of His divinity)

-What if it's my blindness to the Imago Dei in others...

-What if it's my deafness to the pain and suffering of others...

-What if it's my atrophied will that won't move toward my brother and sister in Christ who is in need...

-What if it's my loving, calming presence that's supposed to calm the storms of life that are causing others to despair...

-What if...what if it's the miracle of reconciling relationships that feel irreconcilable!!!!!!!!!!

-When is the last time you felt hesitant because God was asking you to do something for Him that made you feel uncomfortable...like being a part of a relationship miracle?

Oneness

-John 17:20-24

- You know why He is praying right...one mind is impossible for us!
- It's going to take something supernatural to reconcile the irreconcilable...
- AND, listen to what He says...this IS our witness!!!!

-Celebration

>the passions of others that come out of their personalities, spiritual gifts, and assignments...

>(explain the Paul/call, Saul/popular, and Herod/p&p syndrome)

>Talk about the difference between toleration that privately judges vs. celebration that leads to hospitality and meaningful relationship...

>Do those passions have limits...sure. If your passion is a gambling addiction...well...we are going to help you find a more noble cause!

>Exodus 36:1...find your Bezalel!! (ref.)

>2 Corinthians 10:3-5...sometimes your Bezalel is to break down something!

-Confidence (read quote from Compassion and Conviction)

>a confident pluralism here isn't about winning...it's about learning and bringing your ideas to the marketplace of ideas...truth always prevails!!!!

>and don't let your lack of character get in the way of TRUTH!!!!

>how much time are you spending with people who are different than you and how much time are you spending exploring ideas that challenge your own?

>We've adopted a secular mindset that loves winning more than we love relating!

-Collaboration

>I want to celebrate you and respect your confidence in your ideas AS we work together!

>1 Corinthians 12 (& Jeff's book)

- "interconnected and interdependent"
- "next to them"
- arrogance is the genesis of deception! (T & P)

>All the SHAPE's and how that is the only way to build the church Jesus envisioned to love the world He died to save.

>If you can't serve Jesus along side people who are dramatically different than you are, you are rejecting that part of God that He is revealing to the world through them!

>modern day Pharisee is when you believe Jesus is only every on your side...

-John 19:26-27

We love Jesus' plan for us to be in Heaven with Him but do we love His plan for who we are supposed to align ourselves with on the way there?

>Megs Ergon...Greater Works...A relationship miracle!

>-I believe that City Life is supposed to be a community of faith where the world sees people reconciling relationships whose lives seem irreconcilable.

Band

-How far are you willing to go to reach the lost?

-When is the last time you felt hesitant because God was asking you to do something for Him that made you feel uncomfortable...like being a part of a relationship miracle?