

18th Anniversary Service
Sermon: 98.6
01/27/24
Newport News

Opening

-("evil has a destiny" memory from the movie theater)

-tonight I want to share briefly about my prayer for us this year in 2024 and then I want to share a message I'm entitling 98.6

2024 Prayer

-Have you ever wondered if it was difficult for Jesus to wait?

- Luke 2:40 (meaning...then text moves to him at temple)
- That favorite aunt at her funeral...
- That one time the fishing trip was getting rained out...
- Did He have to fail tests on purpose (Mary pulling Him aside)
- Jesus had FULL knowledge at some point of His entire life!

*-But that's not going to be our experience...**our lives are filled with landmark God encounters that point us to and empowers us for every good work we are destined to accomplish!***

(Noah, Abraham, Naomi, Ruth, Esther, David, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Paul...)

-I am praying that 2024 is going to be a banner year for all of us, a year filled with landmark God encounters! (purpose clarifying, destiny defining...)

98.6

-(tell story of a few weeks ago the temp in the room getting to 72 even though it was set for 68 and was in the 30's outside...what I felt God say about this message: be a change agent in the spaces you occupy!)

-Matthew 5:13-15

1. First, notice the language, not a command

2. Verse 44 is a command
3. Jesus is putting a stamp on our identity...YOU ARE!
4. Savory and Bright vs. Bland and Dim

-Jesus is saying that we are supposed to be change agents in the spaces we occupy!

-So are the spaces you occupy...

(YOUR HAVE PRESENCE REGARDLESS OF YOUR ROLE!!!!)

- More or less loving...
- More or less truthful...
- More or less forgiving...
- More or less generous...
- More or less principled...
- More or less hospitable...
- More or less peaceful...
- More or less merciful...

-You might be here tonight and you've praying, asking God some "why" questions.

- Why do You have me in this job?
- Why do You have me in this neighborhood?
- Why did You place me in this family?
- Why did You lead me to this school?
- Why do You have me in this city?

-Can I just tell you that more often than not, the spaces and places God is going to lead you into throughout your life are going to be about how God wants to use you to be a change agent in that space more than that space existing to do something for you! (focus on impact, your change will come...in it for you, impact never happens!)

-98.6...and I believe Ephesians 4 holds for us some keys for how we move from bland to savory and from dim to bright...to being a change agent in the spaces we occupy!

5 Ideals

-Ephesians 5:11-12

>I believe these are more than just 5 spiritual archetypes. I believe these are 5 culture-shaping ideals that build the kind of churches that in turn produce the kind of Christians who become change agents in the spaces that they occupy.

-(talk a little about the idea of “5 Fold Ministry”)

1. Not wrong, just not first...
2. If I only see archetypes...I never embody all of them
3. What I believe the Holy Spirit and Paul were ALSO trying to say...
4. Shape the Church and we embody ALL of them!

The Teacher

-Are we being true to the text? (let's be that church!)

-What would happen if all of us in this room tomorrow started in earnest living according to everything in the Bible we believed to be true?

-What about every Christian in the 757...

The Shepherd/Pastor

-Are we caring for others? (let's be that church!)

-Permission to be jerks: personality, point of view, present circumstances

-emotional intelligence, merciful, sensitivity, embody a mindset “after you”

The Prophet

-What is God saying to us? (let's be that church!)

-We are a church that believes in God's living presence AND His active, prophetic voice!

-(tell story of being in Mechanicsville Ruby Tuesdays)

The Evangelist

-Are we spreading the Gospel? (let's be that church!)

-I am at one with God, rescued from myself, just as if I'm perfect, because Jesus paid it all!

-John Towell, book This Present Darkness, response calls at MCC

Band

-The Apostle (let's be that church!)

- **Are we 98.6?**
- Explain meaning of "apostle"
- Tell story of metal statement on rear wall
- The Great Commission
- The Great Commandment
- The Great Expectation

-You and I are supposed to be a change agent in the spaces that we occupy!

-(invite people to come to basket for a thermometer...)

Close