

**Anniversary Service
Tell the Story – Live the Way
01/29/22
Newport News**

Opening

-Happy Anniversary... (tell a couple stories from the theater)

- The movie marquee “Evil Has A Destiny”
- Ryan Matthew eating nachos...
- The dream we had for permanent home...that dream sustained us!
- “The Year of His Yes!”
- fast forward to 2019...

-dreams are powerful!

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

- Harriet Tubman

“You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”

- C.S. Lewis

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

- Arthur Ashe

Introduction

-There is a new dream that has been building in my heart all year and tonight I am asking you to take up that dream with me...

-My dream is that when all of Heaven looks at the 757 it says this: **There is no other place on the planet where Jesus is easier to find than the 757!**

- Military commanders...

- Corporate executives...
- Empty nesters...
- Young adults...

-(talk about going to NYC in November of 2001...Starbucks everywhere!)

-A church on every corner doesn't mean Jesus is easy to find!

-Think of everything that IS easy to find that shouldn't be!!!!!!

Opening the Door

-**Matthew 23:13** (HS said: "If it can be closed...it can be opened!!!!!!")

- How are we opening the door to Jesus for others?

-What would happen in the 757, in our workplace, in our neighborhood, in our homes...if we started asking this question at the end of EVERY day?

- **Was Jesus easier to find in my city today because of me?**

- Through my words?
- Through my attitudes?
- Through my choices?
- Through my actions?

-Will you join me in this dream? (preach)

-Let's talk impact...NOT church growth!

- **Our AWA = about 300**
- **Our AWA x frequency multiplier = our reach**
- **300 x 2 to 3 = 600 to 900**

- VA's are going to pivot away from event promotion...if you call City Life home, we are going to create a new place for you to find all that...don't be lazy!
- Every service asking the question, where are the open doors?
- Are we being good stewards of our reach?
- Last week **WA = 375**... let's share that link every week!!!!!!

Old and New Treasures

-**Matthew 13:52** (terminal values vs. instrumental values)

-Not every new treasure is supposed to be an old treasure... (use worship as an example – we value worship as an old treasure, The Vagabond song is a new treasure that won't always be!)

-(work through all the web statement)

- What are new statements that will do a better job of pointing people to Jesus who are far from God?
- What are new statements that will do a better job of challenging us who are Christians to live more like Jesus?
- (check out the website...here are two of them...)
- Tell the Story & Live the Way

Tell the Story

-**The Bible tells a story and you have a part to play!** (same AND different)

-remember that AWA formula? (review)

-AWA x FM x average gospel opportunity = potential impact

-300 x 2 to 3 x 10 = 6,000 to 9,000 for us as a church

-starting in March I'm going to launch a series called The Story and we are going to work through start to finish The Gospel Story...

(You can't Tell the Story if you don't know The Story)

-our plan is to have QR coded cards ready to go for that series...

(no silver bullets...building a little at a time...Arthur Ashe and MLK)

-Matthew 25:34-40

-Luke 14:12-24

-(talk about our new Matthew 25 moments)

-(talk about meeting this week with Chief Drew)

-will you Tell the Story with Me?

-For there to be no other place on the planet where Jesus is easier to find than the 757!

Live the Way

-John 12:32

-Can we agree that Telling the Story isn't the only way we lift up Jesus in our world...we can do some serious door opening in our city by becoming like Jesus!

-Matthew 23:13 also talked about entering ourselves!

-The more I become like Him, the more doors I open to Him!

-The Gospel that saves me is a gospel that changes me!

-The Way

- The Way of Jesus' Character (Praxis...24 Virtues)
- The Way of Jesus' Beliefs (Doxa...7 Core doctrines)
- The Way of Jesus' Obedience (Shema...5 Conversions)
- The Way of Jesus' Peace (Shalom...4 Portions)

-My goal is that in 2023 we are going to do a deep dive into all 4 of these...I've got some serious writing to do...Praxis needs an update and the other 3 need to be written!

-These next 24 months are setting the course for the next 16 years!!!!

Our Loudest Witness

-next week we launch this new series: Our Loudest Witness

-Diversity...our warmest welcome!

-Ministry...our best effort!

-Generosity...our boldest gift!

-Community...our strongest bond!

-(inspiring and uniting others around this dream...these values)

-When I look at the book of Acts and survey the first century church, I believe that these four values were at the core of everything they were...and still should be today!

-And His church, built on these values were a central reason why Jesus was easy to find in Jerusalem in the book Acts!

Close

-Let's open a door...

-Has the longing in you to know God and to be known by Him ever been filled?

-Do you ever wonder why God picked Joseph and Mary to be Jesus' parents? I think one of them was because Joseph was a carpenter. And Jesus, in keeping with the practice of His day, would also become a carpenter...the perfect profession.

-Jesus came to build a door. A door that makes possible for each of us to be found, to be adopted, to be forgiven, to be convinced by The Gospel.

-Can I invite you to pray this prayer with me... (pray)

-You can now say: I am one with God, rescued from myself, just as if I'm perfect, because Jesus paid it all.