



Sermon Discussion Notes 2010 - Part 4

Opening Idea

During the last presidential campaign the slogan used by our president was "Yes we can." Throughout the country people would chant this phrase "Yes we can." Creatively President Obama sought to breath upon the smoldering embers of America's can do spirit. Americans have always been an optimistic people in challenging times. There may be some virtue to having self confidence but when our confidence is resting solely on ourselves we are severely limiting ourselves. It is ironic that written upon the American currency are not the words "yes we can" but "in God we trust."

Discussion Questions

1. When we rely on human resources we are relying on a finite resource and not an infinite resource (God). Discuss the points in this story that illustrate this principle. See also Psalm 127:1-2

Luke 5:1-11

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2 he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. NIV

2. A group of human beings can pull their talents and wisdom together and through their synergy accomplish many things but who do we need to ultimately be dependent upon if we desire to do the impossible? Discuss the formula below that reflects humanism that is the accomplishment of human ingenuity alone.

People + Determination = Success

3. Mark Batterson in his book, In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day, said this:

"To the infinite all finites are equal."

What does that phrase mean to you?

4. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do in the scripture below before they went out to try to change the world? How does this relate to our mission and ministry?

Luke 24:49

49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." NIV

- Discuss why they couldn't start changing the world (Acts 17:6) without being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus was calling them on an impossible mission. Discuss this phrase "People in sincere unity without God's strength cannot accomplish the impossible."
5. According to Jesus what was the key activity necessary for believers to be fruitful in their ministries? See John 15:4
 6. Discuss these benefits of being a God-reliant organization versus being a human-reliant organization:
 - The ability to accomplish the impossible versus the possible (Luke 1:37, Matthew 17:20)
 - Having God open doors you could not open yourself (Revelation 3:8)
 - God making people open to you and your influence who would normally be closed to you. This is called favor. (Luke 2:52)
 - God's protection and keeping power during times of adversity (Psalm 124:1-5, Isaiah 43:1-2)
 7. What is to be the under girding attitude beneath Bay Shore Community Church as we use our gifts and talents for the Lord?

Concluding Thought

Human organizations and teams can achieve many things independent of God. But great accomplishments independent of the Lord breeds pride and arrogance. Daniel 4:28-36