



Session 7 Homework: From Awareness to Action

Why the Church is the Answer

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" (John 14:12 NKJV).

As we read the above passage, one of the most important questions we should ask is what are the works to which Christ refers? It is natural to assume a reference to the great miracles He performed while on earth – the healings, casting out of demons, feeding of the thousands with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. However, the power and beauty of these miracles lies not only in the miraculous nature of the acts themselves, but in the greater theme of restoration they represent.

Jesus' miracles focused on bringing opportunity for hope and restoration, salvation and healing to a broken world. He lived as a bearer of life and freedom. Whether He accomplished this by healing a blind man or by conversing with a woman at a well, the mission of love and salvation remained the same.

As His disciples, we are called to bring life and light to the world as well.

"As you sent me into the world," Christ says to the Father, "I also have sent them into the world" (John 17:18 NKJV).

The hard work of salvation has already been accomplished. The death and resurrection of Jesus have overcome sin, but the world in which we live is still broken. As Christ's disciples, we are responsible to bring light to the darkness.

Broken indeed is a world in which people are bought and sold for sex. It is a problem in which education and monetary resources are helpful, but nevertheless unable to address the root evils that cause human trafficking. Lives are only transformed by Jesus Christ, and both perpetrators and victims alike must come to know the saving power of the Gospel.

The Church cannot expect the world to do what it has specifically been called to do as disciples of Christ. Instead it must take seriously its responsibility to follow in the footsteps of Christ in bringing healing, justice and mercy and grace to this world.

It is not solely the responsibility of church leaders and a few non-profits to engage in this great undertaking when it comes to trafficking. It is the work of the individuals who make up the greater body of Christ. It is your responsibility. In Isaiah 6:8, the Lord asks, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" It is for us to say, "Here *am*!! Send me" (Isaiah 6:8 NKJV).

Look up 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. Consider what it means to be an ambassador for Christ. What is the ministry of reconciliation? Take the following action steps:

- Meditate on and memorize three scriptures that clearly identify our role as carriers of truth and restoration to the world.
- Listen to [“The Missing Ingredient for Miracles.”](#)¹ a sermon preached by Clayton Butler at Bethel Church on May 19, 2013.
- Pray that the Church would walk in its identity as the solution to the problems in the world.
- Pray that you would understand the vital role you play, as an individual, in addressing the issue of trafficking.
- Share with your small group or with an accountability partner what you have learned about the “ministry of reconciliation” and the scriptures you have memorized.

“I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” – Elie Wiesel, Night

Application

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” (Matthew 7:24-27 ESV)

You have come to the end of this training. At the beginning we emphasized one key point – this training is not about gaining more knowledge or getting another credential; it is about action. Consider Jesus’ words above. As Clayton discussed on the training video, the “rock” in this verse isn’t what you may have at first believed.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them... Jesus is talking about action. If we simply hear but do not DO the commands and teachings of Jesus, we are no better than the foolish man. We will have built a house, but when the storms arise, when trials come, our house will be swept away. However, if we do the commands and teachings of Jesus and practice them daily in our lives, when the storms arise and when the trials come, our house will stand firm.

Listening and learning without doing is empty. What good is it for the young woman at risk of sexual exploitation or the pimp who desperately needs to hear that she too can find redemption if you to have knowledge but do nothing?

Throughout this training, through the homework assignments and community mapping exercises, we have provided action steps and points of prayer for you along the way for you to have prayerfully considered where it is that God is calling you to work in this fight. Now that you have come to the end of these sessions, you must ask yourselves the following questions:

- What has God put on your heart for joining the fight to end human trafficking?
- How much time are you willing and able to give?
- Where has God placed you right now to make a difference?

¹ Butler, C. T. (2013, May). “The Missing Ingredient for Miracles.” Sermon presented at Bethel Church, Richland, WA. Available at <http://bethel-church.org/video/the-missing-ingredient-for-miracles/>

Finally, reflect on Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (ESV). Do not only talk about justice. Do justice. Do not only preach kindness. Love kindness. And do all this with the humility of Christ, who, though he was in very nature God, became man and died for our sins on the cross (Philippians 2:6-8).

We are thankful for you and for your participation in this training. We believe that the answer to sex trafficking is Christ working through his church, transforming the lives of individuals. As a Christian, you are part of that answer. If you are looking for the perfect last inspirational word, this isn't it. Go out and commit.