

NO MAN LEFT BEHIND

Often the world is changed _____.

It often happens when one man makes a commitment not to leave another man behind.

Who will you commit to bringing closer to Christ in 2008? _____.

Mark 1.14-15: ... Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1.16-20: As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Mark 2.13-14: ... Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

Even when he's speaking to big crowds, Jesus has his eye out for that one guy, or those two guys who hang out together, that he can reach out to.

The greatest gift we can give another man is helping him come to _____ the love and grace of God that comes into a life when we receive Christ.

How can you bring someone along with you as you make your journey with Christ?

1. CREATE OR DEEPEN A _____ WITH THE MAN GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART.

The first thing Jesus did with Andrew, Peter, James, John and Levi was not talk to them about their beliefs or their sins or their need for God.

The first thing he did was create a relationship with them.

Luke 19.1-2: Jesus entered Jericho ... A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him ... When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

The first thing Jesus wants to do with Zacchaeus is not correct him or challenge him, but _____ with him: build a relationship with him.

People can hear the truth about themselves if they know it comes from someone who _____ about them.

But most men don't have many or any close relationships with other guys.

Genesis 2.18: The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."

Men don't do well alone; and we can be _____ by people and still be alone.

If we don't have anyone we can be real with and share our hearts with – we're alone.

Being a real friend – that alone is a great gift, and it honors and pleases God.

Matthew 22.37-39: Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

If you've created a relationship built on trust and genuine care with another man, there will most likely be an opportunity to talk about how your faith has helped you.

Make a decision that you will be a good neighbor and/or a good friend to someone who needs a deeper relationship with God.

Be _____ about hanging out with him.

2. _____ **FOR THE MAN GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART.**

Coming to know Christ – that's a spiritual work in someone's life and it's not something we can control or manufacture.

2 Corinthians 4.4: The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

There is a _____ battle going on for the life of your friend.

John 16. 7-11: ... If I go, I will send him (the Holy Spirit) to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

What we can't do in another man's life, the Holy Spirit can do.

What can we do?

We can pray for the Spirit's _____ in our friends' lives.

2 Corinthians 10.3-4: For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

There is a spiritual battle that's going on for your friend's heart and soul.

And it's not going to be won in the flesh.

It's a spiritual battle and it will have to be won in the realm of the Spirit.

And prayer is one of our primary weapons.

3. _____ **THE MAN GOD PUTS ON YOUR HEART.**

Jesus was continually inviting during his ministry.

"Come, follow me."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden."

"Come to me, all you who thirst."

"Let the little children come to me."

And the early followers of Jesus invited other men to come and see what they had found.

John 1.40-46: Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, ... heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" ... Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. ... The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me." ... Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied.

You can develop a friendship with another man; you can pray for him; but if you're not going to leave him behind, there will come a time when you will need to invite him.

A national survey found that _____% of unchurched people said they would probably attend church if a friend invited them and went with them.

Matthew 9.36-38: When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

You can never make more of an impact upon a life, a marriage or a family than by leading a man to Christ.