

Impacting a Changing World

Becoming a Difference-Maker

I. Introduction

- A. Genesis 12:1-2 (NLT) *¹The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others."*

II. What a Difference-Maker Is Not:

- A. A difference-maker is not somebody who is perfect!
1. II Corinthians 12:9 (NAS) *And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*
- B. Being a difference-maker is not about "bumper sticker" Christianity!

III. Becoming a Difference-Maker

- A. It begins with a willingness to let my heart be broken when I look at the world.
1. Matthew 8:2-3 (NLT) *²Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. "Lord," the man said, "if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." ³Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared.*
2. Matthew 9:36 (NAS) *Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.*
- B. Sacrificial generosity
1. Acts 20:35c (NAS) *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*
2. II Corinthians 8:9 (NAS) *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.*
3. II Corinthians 9:7 (NAS) *Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
- C. Difference-makers live with a sense of "holy discontent."
1. "Shalom" - - where things are just the way God wants them to be.

D. A sense of active dependence on God.

1. John 15:5 (NAS) *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*
2. Matthew 6:10 (NAS) *'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'*

E. Inconvenient servanthood

1. Isaiah 52:7a (NAS) *How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news.*

IV. Conclusion

Upcoming Messages:

5/4-5/2013 – "Follow or Admire?"

5/11-12/2013 – "Moms Who Make a Difference"