Series: Why? (Why We Do What We Do)

June 9, 2019

Message 2

**For Those Who Don’t Know**

2nd Kings 6:24-7:11

**Intro:** Why? Why do we do what we do?

When you are trying to get a job done, and you get four people in a circle discussing how to do that job - often you are going to get 4 different ideas on how you should get that job done!

Someone has to take leadership - someone has to decide - and people have to agree to work together according to the same method to accomplish the one goal.

One vision may be able to be accomplished many different ways - but if 5 people are pulling on a cart - and they are pulling it in 5 different directions - the cart ain’t goin’ nowhere!

The word “division” literally means “two visions” - so more than one vision will bring division.

According to Ephesians 4 - Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors & Teachers - and He gives them the vision for the church - they equip the people to do the work of the ministry - then we conduct a variety of ministries according to a method to accomplish the vision -

Our vision here at New Life is to help people -

* **Know God**
* **Find Freedom**
* **Discover Purpose**
* **Make a Difference**

Through -

* **Sunday Services**
* **Small Groups**
* **Next Steps**
* **Dreams Teams**

Further - the Lord spoke to me clearly in October of 2014 -

**“Whether or not you grow numerically, your job … is to prepare this church to be led by the Next Generation.”**

So - we are on a path to figuring that out!

Of young people in America who attend church during their high school years, 50% will drop out of the local church for at least the next 10 years of their lives - some of them will never return. That happens here as well.

Whatever we think we need - we’ve got to try to fix that.

* **Growing Young Conference - October 11-12, 2019**
* **Our Pastors in “Growing Young Cohort” with Fuller Seminary** 
  + **October 2019 - October 2020**
* **Pastor’s time of Renewal and Reflection -** 
  + (announce flip to Pastor Sharon in 2019 & Pastor Randy in 2020)

We told Lilly Endowment and Christian Theological Seminary about this vision and they gave us a tremendous grant for these efforts! I believe that was God confirming our vision.

Last week - our first answer to **Why We Do What We Do** - was

**To Build the Church -**

* **Prayer**
* **Perseverance**
* **Power**

Today we’re going to look at a story in the Bible where an entire city was in a desperate situation. The city was Samaria - at that time the capital of Israel -

An enemy was surrounding … ancient cities walled … siege process …

This city is dying -

The two women made a deal – they both had babies. They agreed that

one day they will eat one baby and the next day they would eat the next.

If you think this is horrible - just think of what is happening in our culture -

* Parents offering their children as sex slaves
* Parents killing their children in drug infused frustrations
* Congressional leaders who know that babies in the womb have heartbeats, and feel extreme pain, are still willing to have them legally destroyed in the womb
* Governors who won’t speak up for babies who survive abortions and advocate policies that will allow the child to die even after birth!
* Post-birth abortion? That’s a contradiction in terms! Once the birth happens there is no opportunity to abort!

There is forgiveness … I’m talking about the current condition of our culture at large - and how we can make a difference going forward …

Humankind is lost beyond hope without God - The story we are looking at is not much different than the culture we live in today.

But after these women in our story ate one baby, the mother with the living child hid her son – so the mother of the dead, eaten baby takes the other mother to court hoping the court will force the mother of the living child to give up her baby so they could eat it!

This is a true story! It’s a horrible situation where there seems to be

nothing but bad news! But in the midst of this situation, there was

incredibly good news! As a matter of fact –

In the worst imaginable situation, there is wonderful

news! But most people didn’t know about it!

**Big Idea: Why We Do What We Do?**

**For Those Who Don’t Know**

Many people in our culture do not know this:

John 14:6 – Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one

can come to the Father except through me.”

Acts 4:12 – There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other

name under heaven by which we must be saved.

More and more people believe there are many ways to get to heaven - when the Bible says there is only one way - We must lovingly tell people who don’t know that there is a way! This must be the priority of our ministries!

This lack of information is no longer limited to other nations - the famine of God’s Word is growing in America. It is in our city - there are people you work with - go to school with - who don’t know the simple story of Jesus -

We do what we do for those who don’t know -

What are we called to do for those who don’t know?

**T.S.:** 5 Action Steps -

**> Recognize the Shortage**

2nd Kings 6:24-29 - Some time later, however, King Ben-hadad of Aram

mustered his entire army and besieged Samaria.  As a result, there was

a great famine in the city. The siege lasted so long that a donkey’s head

sold for eighty pieces of silver, and a cup of dove’s dung sold for five

pieces of silver.

One day as the king of Israel was walking along the wall of the

city, a woman called to him, “Please help me, my lord the king!”

He answered, “If the LORD doesn’t help you, what can I do? I

have neither food from the threshing floor nor wine from the press to give

you.”  But then the king asked, “What is the matter?”

She replied, “This woman said to me: ‘Come on, let’s eat your

son today, then we will eat my son tomorrow.’  So we cooked my son

and ate him. Then the next day I said to her, ‘Kill your son so we can eat

him,’ but she has hidden her son.”

These people are buying bird poop for food … Turning to cannibalism …

If they had heeded the messages from their preachers, the prophets, this may not have happened – but if they heard and remembered those message they knew this was coming –

Leviticus 26:29 – Then you will eat the flesh of your own sons and

daughters.

Deuteronomy 28:53 –The siege and terrible distress of the enemy’s

attack will be so severe that you will eat the flesh of your own sons and

daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you.

Jeremiah 19:9 – I will see to it that your enemies lay siege to the city until

all the food is gone. Then those trapped inside will eat their own sons

and daughters and friends. They will be driven to utter despair.

Lamentations 2:20 – “O LORD, think about this! Should you treat your

own people this way?  Should mothers eat their own children, those they

once bounced on their knees?  Should priests and prophets be killed

within the Lord’s Temple?

Lamentations 4:10 - Tenderhearted women have cooked their own

children.  They have eaten them to survive the siege.

Are you disturbed by this?

I’ve already mentioned our abortion crisis – again - there is forgiveness…

But as a culture we have people fighting for the continuation of the killing of millions of innocent babies.

Some of our leaders in America have tried to force church-run hospitals to participate in this against their beliefs! Isn’t that disturbing?

Our tax money is used to pay for unlimited abortions here and in other nations of the world.

This kind of evil desperation is caused by a great famine – a great

shortage of the knowledge of God’s true love! The people of Samaria were facing this situation because they had forsaken the Lord. Today, many people no longer have any feelings of sadness when they read and hear stories of murder, rape, abortion, the killing of the elderly, partial-birth abortion, and child-molestation.

There is a shortage of the knowledge of God’s Truth and Love.

Amos 8:11-12 - “The time is surely coming,” says the Sovereign LORD,

“when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread or water

but of hearing the words of the LORD.

    People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from border to border

searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.

People today are eating the dung of false religions and false philosophies – which includes anything other than historic, biblical Christianity! It is emptiness! It is futile. It is not life-giving.

**> A Reaction of Sorrow**

2nd Kings 6:30 - When the king heard this, he tore his clothes in despair.

And as the king walked along the wall, the people could see that he was

wearing burlap under his robe next to his skin.

Burlap … sackcloth … sign of mourning …

How much more should we have a reaction of sorrow for people who

have no knowledge of Jesus Christ – no knowledge of His love - without which they will spend life after death in eternal judgment without God’s presence and love?

How long has it been since you wept for someone who doesn’t know

Jesus? Maybe for a family member or friend that you’ve witnessed to

and they’ve rejected – But – they’ve heard – how long has it been since you wept for someone who has never heard?

Jeremiah 9:1 - If only my head were a pool of water and my eyes a

fountain of tears, I would weep day and night for all my people who have

been slaughtered.

Jesus wept – because Jerusalem and Israel rejected His first coming –

they didn’t recognize Him – many of them would suffer eternal

punishment - they would not be the lighthouse to the world – many more

would suffer – not hearing about God’s love –

In Acts 14, Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes like this ancient King of Israel

– In Lystra a lame man was healed – they hailed Paul and Barnabas to be gods – when they corrected them – they stoned Paul –

They were sorrowful that the people who had never heard didn’t even

understand when they heard the message and saw it confirmed with

miracles! We see this today …

When we recognize the shortage of the knowledge of God’s love - we should have a reaction of sorrow!

We should be weeping for the lost people who have never heard and will

go to an eternal hell unless they do hear!

**> Remember the Promise of Supply**

2nd Kings 7:1-2 - Elisha replied, “Listen to this message from the LORD!

This is what the LORD says: By this time tomorrow in the markets of

Samaria, five quarts of choice flour will cost only one piece of silver, and

ten quarts of barley grain will cost only one piece of silver. ”

The officer assisting the king said to the man of God, “That

couldn’t happen even if the LORD opened the windows of heaven!”

But Elisha replied, “You will see it happen with your own eyes,

but you won’t be able to eat any of it!”

In the midst of the most horrible situation you can imagine – Elisha said that the next day there will be a supply!

No more scraping the head of a donkey – no more buying bird dung for

your kids – no longer fighting over eating your own children! There will

be fine flour – grain – the famine will be over! There will be a supply of

food – TOMORROW!

Listen to these promises of supply –

Psalm 22:27 – The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to

him.  All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

Isaiah 66:23 – “All humanity will come to worship me from week to week

and from month to month.”

Matthew 24:14 - And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and

then the end will come.

Much of this will be fulfilled in a time yet to come - but many will miss

out on this if they don’t have the opportunity to hear the Good News!

We have this knowledge of God’s love - but have we recognized the shortage? Do we realize others don’t have this knowledge? Have we experienced a sorrow that leads us to tell others this promise of supply?

This is why we do what we do!

* This is why we want people to hear about Knowing God when they come on Sunday morning.
* This is why we want people to Find Freedom in Small Group relationships.
* This is why we want people to Discover their Purpose
* This is why we serve on Dream Teams -

Will you be a part of this? The officer assisting the king did not believe the story - did not believe that good things were coming - so he would not be part of it - he would miss out on the blessing!

We are called and commissioned to be part of this promise of supply - into the Next Generation! This is why we do what we do!

**> Reach for the Supernatural Element**

2nd Kings 7:3-6 - Now there were four men with leprosy sitting at the

entrance of the city gates. “Why should we sit here waiting to die?” they

asked each other.  “We will starve if we stay here, but with the famine in

the city, we will starve if we go back there. So we might as well go out

and surrender to the Aramean army. If they let us live, so much the

better. But if they kill us, we would have died anyway.”

So at twilight they set out for the camp of the Arameans. But

when they came to the edge of the camp, no one was there!  For the

Lord had caused the Aramean army to hear the clatter of speeding

chariots and the galloping of horses and the sounds of a great army

approaching. “The king of Israel has hired the Hittites and Egyptians to

attack us!” they cried to one another. So they panicked and ran into the

night, abandoning their tents, horses, donkeys, and everything else, as

they fled for their lives.

God stepped in on this scene and took charge of the situation! This is

not the only time this happened in the Bible! This is what God is known

for! Divine Intervention in response to believer’s prayers!

2nd Chronicles 7:14 – Then if my people who are called by my name will

humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their

wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and

restore their land.

Psalm 2:8 – Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance,

the whole earth as your possession.

James 5:16 –…The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great

power and produces wonderful results.

1st Samuel 12:23 – As for me, I will certainly not sin against the LORD by ending my prayers for you.

1 st Peter 4:7 - The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be

earnest and disciplined in your prayers.

Matthew 9:37-38 - He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the

workers are few.  So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask

him to send more workers into his fields.”

David Irwin – There are a thousand needs that we could be interested in,

but let us determine that He can have our lives. When He gets our lives,

He has our money, our prayers, our interests.

Missionaries Don & Cyndie Jeter – Talk to missionaries and you’ll find

this in common: an unshakeable confidence in the power of prayer – the

prayer of people back home.

Missionary Billy Burr – I am convinced that the successes…

missionaries experience are brought about by the prayers and faith of

those who intercede… Thank God for people who pray!

J. Philip Hogan – I cannot be too earnest in my appeal to you who listen

to the voice of the Spirit calling you to prayer… As our enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of God will raise up a standard against him.

The way we have prayed for missions and missionaries in the past is the way we need to pray for our culture, our city, our church, and our ministries now! It is not one or the other - it is both!

Missionary Louise Walker:

Somebody prayed and my burden was lighter,

Somebody prayed and my path became clear,

Clouds rolled away and the sunshine was brighter,

Jesus, my wonderful Savior, was near.

Prayer hands outstretched over ocean and mountain

Helped me press onward when I was afraid;

Thirsty souls drank of the life-giving fountain,

Somebody, somewhere, had earnestly prayed.

Faith flickered love in my pain-tortured body,

Jesus, the mighty Physician, was there

Healing me, bringing me joy in His presence,

Answering somebody’s unfailing prayer.

Gems for the Master afar I may gather,

Trophies at last at His feet to be laid;

“Well done,” He’ll say, but methinks I shall answer:

“Naught but Thy grace, Lord, somebody prayed.”

Will you pray for me? Will you pray for our church? Will you pray for our ministries?

This is why we do what we do!

We must help people discover purpose so that they can make a difference!

REACH FOR THE SUPERNATURAL ELEMENT!

**> Remain Silent No Longer!**

2nd Kings 7:8-11 - When the lepers arrived at the edge of the camp, they

went into one tent after another, eating and drinking wine; and they

carried off silver and gold and clothing and hid it. Finally, they said to

each other, “This is not right. This is a day of good news, and we aren’t

sharing it with anyone! If we wait until morning, some calamity will

certainly fall upon us. Come on, let’s go back and tell the people at the

palace.”

So they went back to the city and told the gatekeepers what had

happened. “We went out to the Aramean camp,” they said, “and no one

was there! The horses and donkeys were tethered and the tents were all

in order, but there wasn’t a single person around!” Then the gatekeepers

shouted the news to the people in the palace.

The lepers make this incredible discovery… eating … drinking … looting.

Then they realize they can’t keep this news to themselves – people are

dying – yes – even those who had rejected them …

Starving … boiling their own babies … eating dove’s dung …

The LEPERS had the wonderful news!

We do what we do because we must tell everyone! We do what we do for those who do not yet know of God’s love!

Romans 10:13-17 - For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD

will be saved.”

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in

him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about

him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?  And

how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the

Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring

good news!”

But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the

prophet said, “LORD, who has believed our message?”  So faith comes

from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Leonard Ravenhill:

Could a mariner sit idle if he heard the drowning cry?

Could a doctor sit in comfort and just let his patients die?

Could a fireman sit idle, let men burn and give no hand?

Can you sit at ease in Zion with the world around you damned?

**Concl:** In the worst imaginable situation, there is wonderful news!

We have incredible, wonderful news that must be shared! We do what we do for those who don’t know!

We must:

● Recognize the Shortage

● Have a Reaction of Sorrow

● Remember the Promise of Supply

● Reach for the Supernatural Element

* Remain Silent No Longer

Give to missions …

The Crossing School is coming here because -

* There has been a shortage …
* We should have a reaction of sorrow for that
* We must remember the promise of supply for them
* We must reach for the supernatural element for them.
* We must remain silent no longer for them -

They need the Good News and their entire generation needs the Good News!

This is why we do what we do!