

Who Is On Your Dream Team?

Introduction

- You're drafting your NFL Fantasy Football Team – whose on the roster?
- You're the newest President of the US – who is on your cabinet?
- You're leading the Tea Party movement out of the Republican party to become its own political party – who are the first 10 people you choose?
- You're Jesus and you are bringing your Kingdom to earth – who are the people you will choose to change the planet?
 - Mark 2.13a,14-15. Jesus'

Big Idea: If you want to change the world, then go after the sick!

- It's an absolute contradiction, yet it's the approach Jesus used and uses to change the world!

Context of the Story:

- Levi=Matthew (gift of God)
- Jewish Tax collectors were considered traitors b/c they were working for the Roman government taking money from their own people. This was very personal. They were often extortionist. They used their position of authority to get money from others.
- Tax collector's booth=ancient toll booth to use the road
- "Follow me" – Jesus probably had contact with Matthew. This probably wasn't their first conversation.
- "be my disciple" = be on my dream team.
- Pharisees – a religious group that were the most dedicated to follow the OT Law-most conservative, Bible believing, evangelistic, etc. They were all Law and no grace. Though some were open to Jesus, most were closed to him and filled with jealousy, greed, pride, judgment and self righteous behavior.
- "Tax collectors and sinners" included the extreme poor, prostitutes, common people, some rich, but they were not dedicated to the following the OT Law like the Pharisees. They were beneath the Pharisees and the Pharisees let them know it.
 - Appl – have you been around a person who made you feel small and insignificant?

"Healthy people" can't be healed.

- People who think they have it all together will all together miss God's best. This applies to Christians and non-Christians.
 - The Pharisees thought they had it figured out – "we're healthy...better than those people...we believe all the right thing..."

- **Four Characteristics of People Who Are Hard To Help:**
 - **Religious people** – This means they are totally dedicated to something. They are devoted to a cause and they will not back down. They are all into their cause and they look down upon you if you challenge them or disagree with them. They are convictional with no grace or openness.
 - Easily offendable – they take things personally and they shut you down. They will hold things against you. It’s a political spirit; it polarizes people and situations.
 - **Prideful people** – they will not accept another way. They know the truth and they will not listen to others. If you disagree with them, they either attack or disconnect.
 - **Judgmental of others** – it’s about being right and exposing other’s weaknesses; it’s using a threat oriented approach to relationships – “you don’t want to get on their bad side.” They hold people down with their threats, attitude and undue influence. They have a critical spirit about them
 - **Protective people** – either they don’t want disruption of the way they are doing life or they don’t want their true self exposed.
 - Resistant to change – It creates fear and resistance. They see things as threats.
 - They aren’t authentic – real about life – or vulnerable to others. Everything is always good and the kids are doing great and relationships are always strong. They aren’t honest people; everyone has a mask and their true self is seldom known. Jesus called them a “whitewashed tomb”.
 - It’s about control and homeostasis
 - **Line graph with their way of life and Jesus’ way of life intersecting it.**
- **“Healthy people” are terminally sick until they have a near death experience.** In other words, their world begins to crumble down – Paul’s testimony, King David’s story, .
 - Craig Jutila’s testimony.
 - Jesus did not prioritize those who were resistant to Him. He loved them, but he didn’t go after them. He went after the crowds who were harassed and helpless.
 - Appl - Who in your life are you trying to argue back to God? His focus was never upon those who were constantly resisting him. Plant the seeds in good soil. Continue to love and show grace, but move on to those who know they are sick. Jesus said if you enter a city and they reject your message just move on. Quit trying to do a work that only God can do in their life.

“Sick people” can be restored.

- Jesus the creator of bunnies and galaxies, quarks and catfish makes a conscience decision to hang out with tax collectors, the poor, prostitutes, the demonized and sick. He picked his dream team from the garbage heap of humanity. That should be good news to all of us!

- What defines a sick person? Someone who knows something isn't right in their life and is looking for help. The ones Jesus is hanging around in this story knew their life wasn't perfect
 - For many it means being open about their sickness.
 - Some sick people are hard to reach b/c they don't like being sick around others. They feel rejected, worthless, embarrassed, ashamed, weak or having to own their sin.

Who are the sick people in your life?

- Who is going through DDIS?
- Key Areas: Marriage, Money, Children, Health, Disconnected
- Graph with lines intersecting and a wave line flowing through it.
- Top Ten List
- Who are the healthy people that you need to put in a secondary position? Some of us are trying to help people who either don't want help or are using us for a financial or relational reason.
 - Mazie's dream -

What are you willing to sacrifice to reach them?

- Jesus gave up his position, and life. Frankly, whatever you give in comparison is nothing.
- Time – are you willing to build a relationship...be inconvenienced?
 - Cliff's message
 - Who are you not seeing around here?
 - Sometimes sick people mask their sickness and you don't see it for a time.
- Personal Involvement – which of the people in story of the Good Samaritan will we be?
 - Too scared, afraid, don't want to get messy...do what you can
 - Typically we stay away from sick people
 - 1 John 3.16-18
 - We're talking about more than a hit and run relationship. Those are good and needed, but it's longer term.
- Establishing healthy boundaries with the sick – if they aren't established you can catch their sickness

How can we equip or partner with you in reaching them?

- Complete Blue Response Card; email me

Conclusion

- Big Idea: If you want to change the world, then go after the sick!
- Review Top Ten List – this is God's dream team and He needs us to go recruit them