

BELONG CAMPAIGN PT. 1
UNLEASHING THE POWER OF FELLOWSHIP
8/16/15

“But if we are living in the light, as He is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.” (1 Jn. 1:7NLT)

Mark 2:1-12

I. Introduction

- A. We are in a campaign to really learn how to experience church for all it’s worth, not just as a service but as a life changing community. We will be learning how to fully tap into that potential by fellowshiping together, worshipping together, growing together, resolving differences together, serving together, and partnering to go out and win the world together.
- B. Today, we want to learn how to tap into the power of fellowship together.

Fellowship is sharing a oneness of heart and spirit together in a way that each person truly knows and is known, celebrates and is celebrated by others, supports and is fully _____ by others in a way that helps all of us reach our full potential.

It means taking a journey from friendly to _____.

“Fellowship is that experience that happens when others acknowledge and celebrate who we are and what we can be in a way that suddenly ignites the circuits of our highest potential.” – Rusty Berkus

Mark 2:1-12 is a story that gives us a picture of what true fellowship is all about.

II. Three things we want to look at in this story: the potential of fellowship, the problem to solve in fellowship, and how the power of fellowship is released.

- A. The potential of fellowship through the power of fellowship:
1. Obstacles that seemed insurmountable were suddenly _____.
Everything changes when we stop living within the paradigm of “me” and start living in the paradigm of “_____.”
 2. We see the full power of faith is released when it is released on behalf of _____.
 - *“Faith works through love.” (Gal. 5:6)*
 - *“Everyone needs four friends crazy enough to break through a roof to get their friends to Jesus.”*
 - *“If you see a turtle sitting on a fence post you can be sure of one thing; he didn’t get there alone.” –Alex Haley*
- B. The problem (challenge) of fellowship
1. Fellowship can only happen where there are people willing to make an “_____” commitment to pursue the well being of another.
“Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well.” (Phil 2:4 NET)

Looking out for the interests of others includes being willing to:

- a. Help bear others _____.
- *“Share each other’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Gal. 6:2)*
 - *“Oh, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but to pour them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then, with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.” –Dinah Criak*
- b. Rejoice with those who rejoice and _____ with those who weep.
“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” (Rom. 12:15 NASB)

2. Fellowship requires humility and _____.

- *“All of want the joy of intimacy, closeness, and love. But the cost of belongingness is vulnerability.” –Dr. Brene Brown*
 - *“If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son, cleanses us from all sin.” (1 Jn. 1:7)*
- a. We live in a generation that longs for love and is _____ by the risk of love at the same time. Many people long for closeness and settle for Facebook relationships. To have true fellowship we must face the risk of love.
- “To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one. Wrap it carefully around hobbies and work, avoid all entanglements; lock it up in a coffin of selfishness. But in that casket safe, dark, motionless, and airless it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, and unredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.” –C.S. Lewis*
- b. Fellowship begins by facing and admitting the reality of “the mat.”
We become one not from our strengths but from our _____.
- c. Every time we become vulnerable we learn to be authentic and even deeper relationships become _____.

C. The power of fellowship is the discovery that at the end of our decision to love others unconditionally and embrace our vulnerability we find a _____ waiting to heal us and free us in the power of His love. ***“If we walk in the light as He is in the light”***

1. Healing on the outside always begins with healing on the _____.
2. It is only when we find Jesus that we find the way to live in true fellowship with others. Salvation is the vertical reality that makes endless horizontal opportunities possible.

In His presence I find the one thing that can overcome all fear of being vulnerable and that is perfect _____. In His love I can take the risk of love because no matter what rejection I experience, in the end that rejection will simply drive me deeper into His arms.

“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.” (Ps. 27:10)

(Answers: I. supported, friends II. manageable, “we,” others, irrational, burdens, weep, vulnerability, terrified, struggles, possible, Savior, inside, love)