

PHILEMON "BE A CHAMPION BY CHAMPIONING OTHERS"

TED TALK INFL SMARTPHONES: decrease relational engagement, increase mental health struggles, dangerous selfies most common cause of injury and death

REDEFINED SHARE: pics, posts, viral videos, reels, stories, collab – untethered human touch -designed not just to project our personal narrative – **CREATE IT.** Story **DEFINES** While we busily build our own narrative, we have little time and a decreasing interest to help build the narrative of others.

- **THE FAB FOUR:** smartphones – attend event, post SM, leverage friend's image

PAUL DOES: CRAZY – ODDLY OCCUPIED WITH ADVANCING OTHERS

I say oddly because it is natural for people to be only concerned with advancing themselves, especially during times of hardship.

- Not just thinking but championing – advancing others before self, opportunities, creative power, spiritual advancement, share influence.

Colosse, Philippi, Ephesus – and this **Onesimus** (criminal, runaway slave)

MP: Paul understood that living God's mission meant championing His work in the lives of others.

CHAMPIONED OTHERS IN HIS SUFFERING (v.10)

IN PRISON: RECEIVE HIM, USEFUL – not put out, frustrated, **not manipulating 4PITY**

When things were the hardest, Paul leaned into being selfless.

- LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS – **INTENTIONALLY OTHERS**

Sometimes, when we struggle, we think, "If I can't have it, I don't want anyone else to."

- Not glad some1 they get promotion, applause, opportunity, encouragement
 - o Secretly harbor bitterness, resentment.. **WHY NOT ME..**

Jesus Followers champion others when it's easy, and especially when it's hard.

- COUNTER CULTURAL: LOOK OUT URSELF – world doesn't share our mission

WORLD: You're in competition with everyone **BIBLE:** Just be faithful to God

- MISSION: God will use ur adversity to advance what He is doing in others.
- Dickens Christmas Carol: Scrooge wealthy, miserly curmudgeon, unaffected needs of others, **GENEROSITY/JOY BOB CRATCHIT AND FAMILY**

Your suffering doesn't hurt the mission; it enhances it when you choose to champion others.

2 Corinthians 1:5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and **salvation**; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT JESUS DID

- THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS ADVANCED US TO GOD

CHAMPIONED OTHERS BY MAKING IT PERSONAL (v.12,17)

PERSONAL: My Son and My Heart - Receive him as you would receive me

Onesimus wasn't a project, an object or a thing, **a stat on PAUL'S SM PLATFORM/SUBS**

- Paul closed the gap by making it personal – **GOT INVOLVED** – **“NO DRAMA”**

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Jesus followers don't champion others from a distance. They make it personal.

- **MAKING IT PERSONAL MAKES IT A MATTER OF THE HEART**

Be willing to go – open our homes – build relationships – make space lives - **LISTEN**

- John Perkins “Beyond Charity” DANGER PACIFYING GUILTY / RELOCATION

AS GOD LEADS – GOD IN THIS – undeniable – came to His doorstep.. in front of him

Proverbs 3:27-28 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. ²⁸ Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it”—when you have it with you.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT JESUS DID

Incarnation – HE TOOK ON OUR DRAMA BY GETTING INVOLVED ON OUR BEHALF

The word became flesh and dwelt among us – tabernacled. Lived, related, engaged

- THE CRUSHING STARTED WITH THE INCARNATION – **ONLY ONE**

CHAMPIONED OTHERS AT HIS OWN COST (v.18-19)

SACRIFICE: I will pay what he owes – **ONESIMUS NOT EARN THIS (grace)**

He worked with His own hands to advance others – **IT COST HIM**

- No big salary from teaching engagements, endorsements

PAUL USED HIS PLATFORM AND RESOURCES TO EMPOWER OTHERS....

Jesus followers reject the temptation to limit our cost, reduce our exposure and mitigate our risk instead of sacrificing for God's mission in the lives of others.

- NEWS FEEDS ON FEAR: inflation, recession, economic instability

Even when those things are true we don't live in fear

- BY FAITH WE INVEST IN WHAT GOD IS DOING – BELIEVE MIRACLE
- FEEDING 5000 – What do you have – bring it to me – RAISED HEAVEN

What makes the church the church is that while everyone else turns inward, we turn upward and outward.

- WE WORK WITH OUR OWN HANDS TO ADVANCE OTHERS

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT JESUS DID

- He worked with His own hands

The Hands of God: Shaped stone and furniture, prepared meals for his disciples, mixed mud and spit smeared eyes blind, raised loaves and fish before God in praise and for the provision of others, touched the leper no one would touch, on the sick and diseased to heal them, gathered children while his disciples argued, took a dead girl by the hand raised, her, grabbed peter while he was sinking in the water rescued, washed the dirty feet of his disciples, **STRETCHED THEM OUT** – pinned to the cross

He worked with His nail-scarred hands to pay what we owed.

Queen we are the champions – championing others

Narrative: constructing a story that defines you