

2.19.12

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Scott VanEtten

This past week I had the opportunity to take my kids to an indoor waterpark, and the next day after we got home one of my kids was being difficult and I yelled at him. Since I am supposed to represent Jesus to my children, I began questioning why he would want to have anything to do with me – or my God – after my outburst. Feeling convicted, I wondered how to turn the situation into a message of grace. I really didn't have an answer, but I knew we both needed a Savior.

Platt wrote, "He has chosen to use us as ambassadors who carry the gospel to people who have never heard the name of Jesus." (*Radical*, p. 156) As I read this sentence, the incident with my son was still fresh in my mind, and I was challenged knowing I can't represent Jesus. I'm not good enough. I fail. I get angry. I knew I would let God down because I've disappointed so many others.

And yet, isn't that the point? That in my weakness God would be lifted up? In my pride, I show others how good I am. In my humility, they see God. In my anger, people see what's in my heart. By asking forgiveness, they see God's mercy. When I'm judgmental, others feel criticized. But when I'm compassionate, they feel loved. I cannot imitate Christ perfectly, but as I tell others what He has done in my life and as I share my shortfalls, people will hear a story of God's grace and His love. They will see that we all need a Savior.

That is what I did with my son. I asked forgiveness and shared that I mess up which is why Jesus had to die for my sin and his. I was thankful for the opportunity to show him we'll never be perfect on our own and grateful for the chance to point him to our Father. "Meanwhile, God has saved you and me by his grace. He has not only given us knowledge about Christ, but he has also given us the presence of Christ and the promise of Christ to provide us with everything we need to take the gospel to them." (*Radical*, p. 159) "We are the plan of God, and there is no plan B." (p. 156)

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) Do I realize that I am God's plan for reaching my neighbor? my coworker? my family? the world?

We are God's plan for reaching the world. It's not a building or a place we draw people to. "Plan A" is for me to step into people's lives and let them see Jesus in me. Why is this hard? Why have I left this up to others? Am I going to obey?

Platt says there are 4.5 billion people in the world without Christ. Since beginning this book, what do I believe God is saying to me about this need? What am I going to do about it? How will things look different for me in the future?

Do I believe all people reject God? (p. 144) How have I rejected God?

“God has made a way of salvation for the lost. Not *a* way, but *the* way.” (p. 152) What’s the difference between “a” and “the”?

“The injustice lies in Christians who possess the gospel and refuse to give their lives to making it known among those who haven’t heard. . . Will we obey God’s will? Will we refuse to sit back and wait for some tingly feeling to go down our spines before we rise up and do what we have already been commanded to do? Will we risk everything – our comfort, our possessions, our safety, our security, our very lives – to make the gospel known among unreached peoples?” (p. 159-160)

This month’s memory verse: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” *Matthew 28: 19-20*

Additional verses: *Acts 10, Romans 1-11, 2 Corinthians 3:4-6, 5:20*

Reminders:

2.26.12 The Gathering at SHU at 10am!!! Radical – chapter 8 & 9

*** 4 the City Event . . . Bless the Catherine Cobb Center & Work/Serve Day @ Salvation Army! ***

We will be cleaning, organizing, painting and doing whatever else may be needed from 4-6pm!!!