

11.21.10

Walking Dusty...

teacher: 3rd:culture

“Teacher, which command in God’s Law is the most important?” Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence. This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: Love others as well as you love yourself. These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.” (Matthew 22:36-40, THE MESSAGE)

Jesus takes EVERYTHING in Scripture and sums it up into two main points. And yet, as I write them, I see how far I am from God’s desire for me in this world. Do I really love God with all my passion, prayer, and intelligence? I know the things I’m crazy about, but am I really zealous for God?!? What would other people say about me? Where do they see my priorities?

Sometimes 3rd:culture is messy. “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” (Isaiah 53:2b-3) What, then, attracts people to Jesus?

Remember the story of Jesus and the woman at the well in John 4? I’m amazed at how much dialogue took place between the two of them. First of all, she was a woman in a culture where women were not highly regarded. Secondly, she was a Samaritan! Jesus was being messy; he was being 3rd:culture. He did the unexpected and valued the relationship more than what others would think. He ends up telling her: “But the time is coming – it has, in fact, come – when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter. It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself - Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.” (from John 4, THE MESSAGE)

As believers, let’s worship God out of our very being and our true selves this week. Bless God!

Additional questions to ponder:

Can I bless others with kindness and not worry about what others think?

Can I bless others by sympathizing and caring for them?

Can I bless others by being compassionate and considerate?

Can I put aside my “to do” list and just listen?

This Week's Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Additional Scripture to Read: John 4, Matthew 22:36 – 40,

REMINDERS:

November 28 – Sunday – The Gathering at SHU at 6 pm!

**10 minute Share the Warmth informational meeting immediately after the gathering

November 30 – Tuesday – Join us for our 1st “On Mission” meeting at 7 pm at SHU.

**1MOSAIC – is committed to fill the week of December 6 – 13 at Share the Warmth!!! Please sign up at the gathering for a spot you would like to serve in.