

SERMON NOTES:



June 28, 2026

Practicing the Way
WITNESS 2.0

Pastor Mick Spann

Our Cultural Moment

- Western culture has shifted to a “Post-Christian” culture
- Many people today are not neutral toward Christianity. They are actively suspicious or distrustful.
- Question: What does it look like to live for Jesus in a post-Christian culture?

The Way of the Disciple

- Abide in Christ (be with Jesus)
- Walk in His Way (become like Jesus)
- Shine His Light (do as He did)

Witness Is Not a Program...

- We are not called merely to witness, but to be witnesses
- A witness: Has tasted and seen that the Lord is good. Lives authentically in light of that experience and shares what they know to be true.
- Christian witness without love feels pushy and hollow
- Christian witness with love is authentic, welcoming and feels safe.
- People want to know you care ABOUT them before they'll listen what you say TO them.

Consider Jesus own life (Luke 19:1-10)

- Jesus notices Zacchaeus, invites Himself into Zacchaeus' home, and shares a meal.
- Offering relational belonging before transformation
- The crowd saw Zacchaeus as a social pariah.
- Jesus saw a person worth loving. Nobody was 'off limits' to Jesus.

Our English word Hospitality has an ancient Greek equivalent: Philoxenia

- Philo = Love. Xenos = Stranger
- Love of the stranger
- Which suggests that Hospitality is much broader than just entertaining friends.

The Example of Jesus

- He Ate with outsiders, welcomed sinners, was present with unlovable people.

Robert Karris: "Jesus got himself killed because of the way he ate."

But it wasn't all about food...

The Towel and the Basin (John 13)

- Jesus knew He was the Messiah. And knew all authority belonged to Him
- So He took a towel, washed dirty feet, and served His disciples (including Judas who He also knew was about to betray Him).
- The King became a servant.
- And told His followers to do likewise.

This Week's Challenge

- Keeping praying for people around you.
- Consider a "Zacchaeus" in your life.
- Offer an invitation of loving hospitality, or do an act of service nobody else wants to do.

Because Jesus still seeks and saves the lost.
And He often does it through the hands and feet of His people.

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In your small groups this week. Consider working through the session Video and Study Guide lovingly provided by Practicing the Way.

WITNESS Practice Recap Video: HOSPITALITY

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Check out a great Podcast Video that digs a little deeper

Practicing
the Way

Be with Jesus
Become like him
Do as he did

