



REDISCOVER ...

THE ART OF NEIGHBORING

BE MISSION-MINDED • 1 Peter 3:13-17; Psalm 56:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:7-8

Pastor Efrain Cirilo • September 18, 2022

BIG IDEA: Your obedience is someone else's breakthrough. Our God is a missionary God and because of it, we are all missionaries.

Pastor Efrain began the message with a number of questions to consider: If Jesus were to live in my neighborhood, where would he live? What would He do in my neighborhood? Does He know about my neighbors?

➔ **How would you answer these questions about your neighborhood? What would Jesus know about your neighbors?**

Jesus provides us with divine moments to walk through and if we don't look we can miss these moments. We need to walk through these moments in obedience because our obedience can be someone else's breakthrough.

1 PETER 3:13-17 || Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Verse 13 asks us who could be there to harm us when we are zealous to do good.

➔ **What could being eager — or zealous — to do good for your neighbors look like?**

I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbor. Do you know your next door neighbor?

-Mother Teresa



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For many of us, we might read the question posed in verse 13 and agree that doing good keeps away suffering. But in many cases, people in the world can still harm us, no matter how many good things we do for them.

➔ How would you answer the question in verse 13? How does Peter answer it in verse 14?

➔ How can you respond in faith when you know that you could suffer for doing good?

Psalm 56:3-4 helps us when we are fearful of sharing Christ.

PSALM 56:3-4 || When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise — in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? evil.

➔ How does knowing that you can trust in Christ help you not be fearful?

➔ Based on 1 Peter 3:14-17, what could living without fear do for those around you? What could it do for you?

➔ What are some ways that you could address and overcome a particular fear you have about engaging with a neighbor this week? What could it look like for you to trust in God as you address that fear?

Pastor Efrain gave us four ways to prepare to reach out to our neighbors and share the gospel:

1. Lean into God.
2. Plan how to meet your neighbors.
3. Write out a short testimony.
4. Walk out in intentionality, knowing that God is with you.

1 TIMOTHY 1:7-8 || For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

➔ Can you write a paragraph testimony of why Christ gives you hope?

➔ Do you have a plan to meet your neighbors?

➔ How does 1 Timothy 1:7-8 give you confidence as you implement this plan?

When we look for what's best in the person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does, so in appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something truly sacred.

-Fred Rogers

