

Scattered Sermon ASBC 25.2.18

Last message in a 4-part series on “The 4 dimensions of church”:

Gathered+Desert+Equipped+Scattered

1. Scattered church is in healthy tension with the other dimensions
 - a. No true scattering without a rhythm of deep gathering
 - b. **How are the 4 dimensions held in tension?**

2. Scattered Church reveals the sovereignty of God
 - a. **How do Acts 1:8 and Acts 8:1-4 flow together?**
 - b. Church forced out to where they had been commanded to go
 - c. God uses but is not the proponent of wrong

3. Scattered Church is purposeful
 - a. Jesus scatters the seed with intentionality Matthew 13
 - i. Soil type is your work context
 - ii. Determined by the Sovereign Sower
 - iii. **How does the Holy Spirit operate in the soil type you have been scattered to in your workplace?**
 - b. **Strategically connected.** Studies show that 83 percent of adults come to Christ through the influence of a friend—and often it’s a friend from work. The potential for outreach and evangelism in the workplace is not paralleled.

4. Scattered church is embracing the Normal
 - a. Faith adventure and Radical discipleship flow from truly normal pursuits
 - b. No little people in the KOG
 - c. **How can the dramatic be unintentionally elevated in a gathered church context? What are the consequences of this?**
 - d. True sacrifice is usually not viewed as such by the casual observer

5. Scattered church transforms the nature of work
 - a. Do all things unto the glory of God Col 3:23-24
 - i. We can be freed from ambition or drudgery
 - ii. **What does it mean that Jesus is truly our boss?**
 - b. Work releases the gifts God has planted within you
 - i. Creativity or Careful process or Caring for the weak or Cultivation of knowledge – All are delighted in
6. Scattered Church shines like stars in the night sky
 - a. Philippians 2: 12- 17
 - b. **How do we shine like stars in the dark places of our workplace?**
 - i. The Potential for Cultural Influence

Our society is driven by values of the workplace—power, possession, and position—rather than justice, mercy and humility. Until Christians take their faith to work and challenge the culture of the workplace, a godless value system will continue to dominate our society. – Bill PEEL

7. Scattered church has been diminished for too long
 - a. **Apology on behalf of the clergy**
 - if for one moment we made you feel less valuable in the KOG we beg your forgiveness
 - if we hinted that to be a pastor is somehow extra special we acknowledge our terrible sin
 - if we suggested that your work was not integral to the spread of the gospel and to the nature of being church we acknowledge our error
 - if spiritual pride has blinded us to the high calling of God's people to being among some of the most resistant people in the world we lay down in the dust
 - if we have failed to pray for you as you daily go out to the battle believing that instead we as pastors most need the prayer then please forgive us

“The 98% of Christians who are not in paid church work have never been envisioned or equipped for mission in 95% of their waking lives.” Mark Greene – Lausanne 2010

James Davison Hunter voices his warning about this neglect in *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*. He writes, “When the church does not send people out to these realms and when it does not provide the theologies that make sense of work and engagement in these realms, the church fails to fulfill the charge to ‘go into all the world.’”

8. Scattered Church is what nearly all of the church are most of the time
 - a. **What does it mean to say that you are the only bible some might ever read?**
 - b. Your attitude to your work and to your co-workers is transformative
 - c. Equipped to be emotionally mature, biblically grounded and deeply spiritual.