

Pastor Mitchell often said of pastoral ministry that: *A pastors job is to find out what God is doing and get on board with it.* As we gear up for our 2020 Bible Study season, we need to be able to move with what God is doing & with what is happening in our current world. In our scripture Jesus breaks out of the program of religion, and shows us the heart of ministry.

I THE HISTORY

A- Important for us to know the Hx of Bible Study: Bible studies began as a means of follow up

1 Many were getting saved, that means many to work with, so men approached Pastor Mitchell about setting up bible studies in their homes as a way to strengthen new believers, and reach their network of people.

a. So; Understand that the motivation was coming from the disciples, not the Pastors.

b. & This was a means of getting into other people groups- one convert could invite their friends

i. **Matt9:10** *Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.* Through Matthew Jesus had access to a group of people he couldn't reach in the synagogues.

2. So; This idea evolved into the program we know today. HCF- Home Caring Fellowships... Winter Bible Studies.

a. Sign up lists, books, leaders & co-leaders, disciples getting practice with sermons & follow up (*People Skills*).

B- But; This Hx reminds us of the purpose of Bible Study;

1. Bible Study isn't about you! *Not about your ego, your superb ministry, how nice your home is, a step toward being chosen...*

2. It's about OTHER PEOPLE: *evangelism, follow up, encouragement-*

a. This is what the Pharisees missed: **Matt9:11** *And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why"*

i. Why are you meeting with new converts, sinners, tax collectors... Why are you investing time into *unchurched* people?

b. Jesus responds with b/c it's about people. **Matt9:12** *He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."*

i. Jesus was focused on the need, the hurting, the lost, the unchurched, the backslidden... People groups outside of the church.

1. **Matt9:13** *For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.* Its all about reaching souls... Thats Bible St.

II BREAKING OUT OF THE PROGRAM

A- So; 2020 has brought about changes.

1. We live in a Covid-19 society; *social distancing, concern of spread, shut downs, fines, & quarantines.*

2. Some people look at that as hopeless. *We can't win, b/c we cant do what we used to do.*

a. But the man of God always looks for an opportunity. **Matt9:9-10** *As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.*

i. Jesus won Matthew & through Matthew was an opportunity to reach others.

B- Point is; You don't need a program to be effective. You need a heart & a vision for Souls.

1. To put it blunt: We aren't doing a formal bible study season... *yet...* BUT that doesn't mean you cant be effective.

a. This is actually very healthy. B/c This is what Ministry & Pioneering is all about- Reaching Out & Building Relationship

i. PG: *"People will fall in love with you, before they fall in love with your Jesus"*

2. When I took over SF: PM made my mission: *"Re-pioneer the City"* How did I do that? I Witnessed & followed up-

a. I would invite the core of saints to dinner, ask them where would be a good place to outreach, then invited them w me.

i. We met SO MANY, & saw quick growth. Many young men got saved, young couples, young families & we had them over

1. Our home became fellowship central: That house had life every week- NC's, Core Saints, and anyone in between.

3. When I took Rochester we did the same; as time went on we BUILT RELATIONSHIP, we made impact in our community.

a. EZ played soccer, I was able to assist, and then invited to assist for the travel team- DOORS BEGAN TO OPEN.

i. I began to run with the Coach I assisted with. He started asking questions about God, I prayed w Him, He came to church.

1. Opened other doors for families on the team. Built a relationship with an Iranian Family.

ii. Neighbors: We became very acquainted with them. Husband came out to church & got saved, later we Did a *"Who-Ville Christmas"* Family Came out & got saved... Other neighbors came out to HH & got saved.

iii. Banker: Built a great relationship with, & she came w her family to some events & prayed.

4. See; This is what Jesus is doing; Making impact OUTSIDE OF THE PROGRAM. He wins one, who wins others.

III HEALING HOUSES:

A- So; Matthews Home became a place of contact with Jesus.

1. Thats what Bible Study is all about; Your home becoming a contact point with Jesus for lives to be healed.

a. **Matt9:12** *He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."*

2. Wherever we have served our house has become a *HEALING HOME*: People come in & see our lives & see Jesus

a. By watching our Marriage, Family, Speech, Compassion, Treat People & Each other.

i. You don't need a formality to do this. Its a heart, & its a vision.

3. So: Is your home a Healing Home?

a. Will you make your home a healing home?

i. Zac: Had converts at his house during shut down, recently had a neighbor over for dinner, constantly w NC's

1. Thats not just a DD's *job* ...thats a heart for people... Andy in Tampa; Home is a contact point.

4. Bible records other homes: Peter's, Jirus, Cornelius, Nymphas, Prisca & Aquila, Apphia & Archippus