

Pastor Mitchell often said of pastoral ministry that: *A pastor's 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 bibles 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 backsidden... 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 can't 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 can't 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