

sermon study guide

Speaker: Lloyd Cenaiko (HART Ministries)

Date: October 17/18 2020

Sermon Title: How to Make Your Life Count in a World that is Hurting

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Which gift would you prefer: One lavish splurge once in the year - or many small, unexpected delights spread throughout the year? Why?
2. Have you ever gone on a mission trip? Have you desired or considered going on one? What influenced your decision?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Matthew 5:14-16, 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 9:13

3. How did Jesus' words just before his ascension (Matthew 28:19-20) sum up his mission and inform ours? How did Jesus model being a "shining light" during his ministry and mission here on earth?
4. In what ways are Jesus' followers the "light" of the world? According to these verses what happens when we let our light shine, or in contrast, when we don't let our light shine?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Lloyd shared a quote: "Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence or learning" (see Romans 2:4; James 1:27). What role has kindness played in your own coming to Christ? How is kindness a part of your witness?
6. This weekend we learned that our mission mandate is to:
 - GO into our world
 - GIVE generously
 - PRAY generously and powerfullyHow can you weave these into your life this coming week? How is God challenging you to make your life count?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Reflect on the following phrases:

"Bloom where you are planted."

"A light is of no use unless it is dark."

Where has God planted you to "bloom"? What "dark" places has God called you to shine his light?

THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

2 Corinthians 9:13

13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

James 1:27

27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

sermon study summary

How to Make Your Life Count in a World that is Hurting October 17/18, 2020 Lloyd Cenaiko

Our speaker today, Lloyd Cenaiko, is President and Founder of HART Ministries (Humanitarian Aid Response Team). His organization has been a partner agency with CSC for almost 20 years. When Lloyd first visited Ukraine in 1994, he was astonished and deeply troubled by the poverty and despair, even though the country was considered one of the most promising post-Soviet republics. Today it competes with Moldova as the poorest nation in Europe.

His trip changed the course of his life. He soon transitioned from commercial real estate to relief aid and missions, building lives rather than buildings. He felt strongly that ministry must be empowered by nationals themselves, and so began networking with local churches and ministries in Ukraine and Moldova. Today, HART partners with over 200 agencies and ministries, where less than 1% of the population are evangelical.

Through the years, Lloyd has learned the importance of missions.

1. Missions is not a minor activity of a few “chosen” people. It is the priority assignment for the whole church. Christ emphasized going to the world more than coming to church. God wants all of us to proclaim the good news of the Gospel message. He also wants us to care for the widow and orphan, tend the sick, feed the hungry, and find shelter for the homeless. We are all part of God's Plan A – and there is no Plan B!

2. God chooses to use flawed humans. When Lloyd founded HART, he felt out of his comfort zone. He didn't have a missions background and couldn't speak Ukrainian. Now, HART is impacting tens of thousands of lives each year for Christ. This is an amazing story of God using a Nobody to be part of His Plan A.

How can you make your life count in a world that is hurting? Our blueprint is found in Matthew 5:14-16, where Jesus said that we are the light of the world, and we are to let our good deeds shine for all to see. Here are three ways that you can be a shining light.

1. Go into all the world – This means to go into your world where God has placed you.

Your world could be your workplace, your school, or your neighborhood. So many people around us are hurting, especially now. Our broken world needs to hear about Christ and know that God loves them. Begin by cultivating friendships with non-Christians. Know that “Kindness has won more sinners to Christ than zeal, eloquence, or learning.”

2. Give generously - You can change a life – You can save a life.

Giving is important because God gets the glory and praise He deserves! 2 Corinthians 9:13 affirms that others will praise God for your obedience and generosity. You can change the destiny of a HART child and family through sponsorships, scholarships, and camp programs.

3. Pray generously - There is power in prayer

Prayer is a gift you can give to anyone. You can begin by going to our Centre Street website and praying for all our ministries, our pastors, and for everyone in global missions. Go to HART's website. Read stories of life change and pray for the people and ministries. HART needs your prayers!

Do you want your life to count? No one can change the world alone, but every person has the potential to change someone's world. An earlier mission mandate was: Go or Give or Pray. But our mandate is more: We need to **GO** into our world + **GIVE** generously + **PRAY** generously and powerfully!