

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

November 28/29, 2015; A1:8 On Mission Every Day

Speaker:

Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture Focus: James 1:19;22;27

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed the many ways God is at work all across the world and here in DC. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: Of the four, which video was the most impactful for you?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did these four videos inspire you to take action?

Specific Questions:

1. Pastor Mark says, "A change of pace and a change of place equals a change of perspective". What are some of the ways that you need to get out of your ritual, routine, or rhythm to change your perspective? Where are the areas in your life that you would reference as your comfort zone?
2. One of the former coca farmers stated that, "Sometimes your God-sized dreams become real." What God-sized dreams of yours have become real? What God-sized dreams do you still have?
3. In the Alexandria video, Matt says, "Root yourself in the city that you're in," and "be faithful where you've been planted." What do these mean to you? How can you do this? Where have you been planted? Where do you feel God is asking you to root yourself so that you can listen to people right where they are?
4. Matt from the Alexandria video says, "You can't have reconciliation without Jesus, and we brought Jesus to the table." Are there places in your community that need

reconciliation? If so, how can you be a part of this? Where is God asking you to be a solution to a problem?

5. Ms. Lydia is an 80-year old blind woman who runs the center of the blind to help other women and girls who are blind. She used her struggles to serve others. Pastor Mark stated that, "She's too busy being a blessing to complain about what happened to her." Do you operate with that kind of strength? Why or why not? How has Ms. Lydia inspired you to utilize your struggles so that God can make them into a strength for his glory?
6. Ms. Lydia says that regardless of what is going on all around her, "We as Christians in Palestine have great responsibility to love our neighbors as ourselves." She's taken the greatest commandment and applied it to her own life operating out of a counter-cultural worldview. What are some areas that God calls you to be responsible for in your own community or backyard? How is God calling you to love your neighbors as yourself, even if it is considered counter-cultural?
7. Pastor Mark says, "If you want God to do something new, you can't keep doing the same old thing." We watched this in the DC127 video where Chelsea said, "If you want to change the rhythms of DC, you'll have to change the rhythms of your life." What old rhythms in your life are hindrances to God doing a new work within you? What are some areas in your life that you can alter? What comfort zones do you need to start resisting?

Read, Pray, Act:

In James 1:19-27, James says that we are to be "doers of the Word", not merely hearers. Which verse stood out the most to you? Pray about the verses and ask God if there is a specific area (the poor, widows, homeless, etc.) that he wants you to focus on. James also says that we are blessed by doing (1:25). Whatever the Holy Spirit reveals to you through these verses, consider the next step to take action.

Challenge:

Pastor Mark said, "We believe the church is a tag-team sport. God has given us dreams as a church, and we need all hands on deck to go after the vision. But we also want to be a part of the dream God has given you." What is the Lord speaking to you about? Take time this week to consider your dreams and how you can help fulfill others' dreams.