

# Sermon Notes

## Seek and You Will Find – Part 6: Your People

### November 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

- **Today: Finding Your People – Putting it all together**
- I'd love to layout some simple principles today and then look at an amazing example from the Bible.
- 3 Steps to Finding Your People
- 1) **Belong.** That is, believe that you belong and then go ahead and actually belong!
  - o I was very much out of my element when I became a Christian. I wasn't sure I belonged.
    - Then I read **1 Corinthians 12:15-16, 1 Cor 12:27.**
      - So, I rejected my feelings and did the Bible. I put faith on it too! Believe you belong.
    - 3 Parts to Belonging: A) Show Up. B) Be Cooperative. C) Do your part well!
- 2) **Include.** Probably the most underappreciated skill in finding your people is including others.
  - o I've seen this be the flaw that sabotaged people's ministry. Maybe they were insecure or self-absorbed and that prevented them from feeling comfortable including others.
  - o 3 Parts to Including Others:
    - A) Let People In. In the group...and in your heart.
    - B) Let People Help. Everyone wants to participate. Let them do that!!
    - C) Let People Lead. Don't get in the way of them reaching their full potential.
- 3) **Stay.** You can't get very far if you don't stay very long.
  - o There are times to move on: When it is time for you to advance or when you need to move on from a dysfunctional and harmful situation. But, don't just quit.
  - o Finding your people is about having history together.
    - For that to happen you've got to work through your stuff so you can last.
      - "Wherever you go, there you are."
    - On the other side, if you last you have greater connection, influence, and blessing!
- I love the story of the Apostle Paul. A very complex person with a fierce devotion to Jesus!
- Here is how he came to faith and found his people: **Acts 9:1-31.**
  - o Saul (who became Paul) was not a Christian friendly person. But Jesus miraculously intervened!!
  - o God calls Ananias to pray for Saul and welcome him in to the family of believers.
  - o Saul changes his tune quite dramatically! However, some figured this was a deception.
  - o Now Barnabas stands up for Paul. His new friends help him when his old friends want to kill him!
- Paul belonged.
  - o He didn't run away, he wasn't half-hearted. He fully joined the followers of the Way.
  - o **Acts 9:26** did not push him away. He, with some help, pushed his way in!!
- Paul was included.
  - o Ananias and Barnabas went out on a limb for Paul. They let him in. Let him help. And let him lead.
- Paul stayed.
  - o There were conflicts and hardships for Paul, but he didn't quit.
  - o He had a tremendous influence. He wrote: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. Maybe Hebrews, but the author is unknown. Not bad.
- Marriage Paradox and Church Paradox.
  - o You have to give more than you take. But if you are surrounded by people doing the same, you will get way more than you could possibly give!
- One last thing about the Apostle Paul from the Bible.
  - o We have the record of Paul saying goodbye to some friends, the Ephesian elders. **Acts 20:36-21:1**
    - Paul wasn't just a great man of faith. He was someone who found his people.
    - Let's believe for the same.
- Get personal prayer by emailing [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag).