

Redemption Vision Lesson #08

*Engaging people
Leading them into a relationship with Jesus Christ
Declaring hope, healing, and redemption.*

Text:

2 Corinthians 3.7-18

Leader Notes:

If we were to ask individuals to describe or define “redemption,” we would probably get a wide assortment of answers. On the one hand, there would be some who would point to a moment of belief and the repentance that came from giving their life to Christ. Others might mention their baptism. Still others might look to an understanding of the saving grace that comes through the death of Jesus Christ as central to redemption. None of these would be wrong, but it does help us realize why “redemption” may be so hard for us to put our finger on.

If we are thinking about the process of engaging others, leading them to Jesus, and then helping them to find redemption, we need to be sure we understand that we do not give redemption. Only God does that. This is the reason we say “Declaring...redemption.” We are telling of the great work of God in our salvation.

This leads to another point that I think is important to remember in our discussion today. If only God can redeem us, we need to be careful not to assume we move or lead or direct people to a place where they are redeemed. Too often I think we try to “fix” those around us. Whatever sin they may be dealing with—if we can just remove it from their lives—then they will be redeemed. In taking on this attitude, people are already flawed and in need of our “intervention” (it just sounds suspect, doesn’t it?) in order to become a good person. No, what they need is God to be at work in transforming their lives into his image. He is the one who does this, let’s spend more time loving, less time fixing.

Today’s passage may be a little surprising to you or perhaps not what you assumed we would talk about when you read “redemption.” You might have thought more along the lines of Acts 2.38. Please do not assume I am against a discussion of repentance and baptism in connection with people coming to know God. That is an important conversation, but I think it is wrapped up in the notion that God is transforming people. I want us to start with that idea first because I think it helps us understand the process of beginning to follow Jesus better.

Discussion Questions:

Icbreaker Question: If someone asked you, how would you define “redeemed?” How would you tell someone redemption comes about?

- Read 2 Corinthians 3.7-18.
- In 2 Corinthians 3, Paul connects a “ministry that brought death” (through the law of Moses) and “glory (that was so radiant, people could not look at it). In what ways have you thought of the old law as something that brought glory? In what ways do you at times dismiss the Law of Moses as being unable to bring life (as so to a certain extent, glory, as well).

- What is it that gives Paul and his readers hope? How does this compare to what gives you hope? If we are going to be a people who declare hope to others, what sort of advice would Paul give us about how to accomplish this?
- How would you describe to someone just coming to the Jesus the process of the “veil being taken away?”
- How are we being transformed? Where does that come from, according to Paul?
- In very practical terms, how does the process of being transformed into the image of the Lord happen? What sort of things do we do to make it happen? What things does God do?
- We typically are people who like to do things on our own in order to make things happen. How can we read this passage about our transformation coming from the Lord, yet still be a part of the process?
- When we think about others finding redemption (which is what we hope for everyone), what parts do we play in their finding it and what parts can we only allow God to do? Given that understanding, what specific things might we do to declare redemption to those who are searching for God?

To Do For Next Week:

Although this is the last lesson in the vision series so there will be no “assignment” for next week, spend some time in conclusion reviewing the various parts of the vision. Allow your group members some time to discuss what they thought significant about the vision and what stood out to them in this study.