



The Healing Stream

Matthew 19:26 Ministries - July 2015



Rev. Bob Honeysett
Rev. Phyllis Honeysett
Ministry Directors

Contact Information:

Matthew 19:26 Ministries
P.O. Box 1351
Dunedin, FL 34697
817-902-7462

E-mail:

matthew1926ministries@yahoo.com

Website

www.matthew1926ministries.org



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Power For the Journey

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Romans 10:12-14

WAKE UP SLEEPING GIANT

BY BOB HONEYSETT

The Supreme Court has spoken! 5 to 4 in favor of same-sex marriage rights in all 50 States. Being surprised over the decision would be on par with seeing a slow moving rain cloud approaching, and being surprised that it actually rained. By the end of the day on June 26th, 2015, there were cheers, tears, celebration, and a minority of people getting their socks in a twist over what's next for America. Some say that we've entered a new era of inclusion and diversity, while others are speaking of the end of Western Civilization and God's judgment upon America. I'm not sure what we've entered with this ruling except to say that the Bible is very clear about the things we will see around us in the last days. Clearly, this is another groan from the Earth as it awaits the return of Jesus.

Personally speaking, I think the Christ-centered church in this country has the capability of seeing her finest hour come to pass. The church has a tremendous opportunity to reach out and bless what up to now has been treated as an unwanted harvest. I'm speaking of the LGBTQ¹ community and many others who will become refugees of the sexual revolution that has been sweeping the U.S. in years past.

Things that we passionately long for don't always bring the fulfillment we expected they would. I believe this is especially true in sexual relationships outside the bonds of holy matrimony (defined as one man and one woman). Sexuality, relationships, and other devices we pursue to find fulfillment apart from God, leave us empty, broken, and in need of a Savior. That was certainly my experience!

Why is it that the mightiest men of God seem to shrink back from this issue? I'm puzzled why there have been so few evangelicals willing to raise their voices over the issue of same-sex marriage and the homosexual issue. It's troubling to me that we claim to have the LIVING GOD living inside of us, but there is so little outward manifestation of that life reflected in our culture. My prayer is that God will use the Supreme Court ruling of June 26, 2015 to shake the church from its sleep over the issue, and begin to move in the love of God toward the LGBTQ community. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few!

Past newsletter articles have addressed this issue many times before, so this information may be a repeat for some of you. I just felt it was a good time for a refresher about some of the things we can do to reach out in love.

REPENT OF OUR OWN SIN

Something that has always humbled me is that Jesus had more compassion for the woman caught in the act of adultery than he did for the religious people that wanted to stone her. "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (*John 8:7-NIV*) Before we can point out the sins in our culture, we have to humbly look at the sin issue in our own lives. We have to recommit ourselves to walking out the life of Christ in our own lives. We have to allow the Lord to show us where the walls are broken down in us before we can be successful (or even be taken seriously) when we try to speak to issues in the lives of others. The painful truth of the matter is that you can't teach people to clean their house if yours is an eyesore.

(continued)

¹ *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning*

ADDRESS YOUR HOSTILITY TOWARD HOMOSEXUALS

There is no reason to be hostile unless we think their sin is somehow worse than our sin. This is not the worst sin of all, and there is nothing found in Scripture to support that it is. Yes, the Bible does call it an abomination, but there are 142 other things that Scripture refers to as abominations – only three are related to sexual activity. The other 139 are related to things such as lying, gossip, lust, greed, fornication, and a whole laundry list of sins that takes EVERYONE into consideration. In God's eyes, sin is sin. It's not just an issue for the "other guy". We ALL fall short of God's glory. While you may not be able to understand the type of sin someone is involved in, it doesn't exempt you from having to deal with them in the love and mercy of Christ. The Apostle Paul addressed some of these issues:

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolators nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (I Corinthians 6:9-11)

And that's what some of you WERE – that tells us that God is not put off or hostile when it comes to this subject– He made a way. Sin has been judged once and for all. Our responsibility, is to operate in our new identity as forgiven, clean and made righteous ones. We must extend the kindness of God just as God has extended kindness to us.

UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE

Don't condemn people. Try to understand where they are coming from and what brought them to the place they're in. People haven't chosen to have homosexual feelings the way that some people choose to live in Manhattan or others choose to live in the country. When we reduce the issue to that level of simplicity, we convince people that we have no understanding about their experience and no sympathy for it either.

Homosexuality has nothing to do with sex. Sexual issues are an outward manifestation of a number of root issues. At the core of the homosexual struggle is rejection. There are a lot of other root issues including unresolved anger, abandonment, sexual abuse in some cases, and the list goes on and on.

If you take the time to listen to a person's heart, you quickly realize that a person's life is more than sexuality. We are all people created in God's image. When you see people from a human perspective, we all have the same hopes, fears, hurts, and dreams with the core need to be safe, loved, and accepted.

In truth, this is not a homosexual to heterosexual situation. God didn't say, "Be heterosexual as I am heterosexual." He said, "Be holy as I am holy." Clearly, Scripture tells us that this is more than an issue of changed sexual desire. The fundamental issue is whether a person is dead in Christ or alive in Christ. We are all called to pursue the holiness of God regardless of what our feelings dictate. The rest of the work is up to God.

REACH OUT IN LOVE

There will always be people who want help, and other people who couldn't care less. Regardless, we have to speak the truth in love and not compromise, no matter what an individual's response is to us or to our message. The goal is love! If they hate us, we are called to love them. If they come against us, we must pray for them. We already know "technique" and all of that has to come together – in love - if we're to make the invisible Christ visible within our sphere of influence. Sin is sin, and the Gospel is still the Gospel.

You and I have the words of Life in our hearts. We are told in Scripture that those words are alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. In other words, if you release the words of the Good News, the Spirit of God will cut through all the barriers and bring salvation no matter what the sin or situation.

It starts with relationship. Step out in faith and BE BOLD! Turn your words into actions. Take someone to lunch. Invite them to meet for coffee. Build a bond of friendship. Don't just say you care. Show it in tangible ways. Now go forth! The Lord is with you!

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