

My World
Part 3: Oikos
Luke 8:26-39

January 17, 2010

Main Point: Develop the oikos where God placed you.

I. The Setting (8:26-27)

II. The Interaction with Jesus (8:28-33)

III. The Reaction of the People (8:34-37)

IV. The Desire of the Delivered Man (8:38)

V. The Oikos Command (8:39)

Oikos Defined:

1. The most natural and common environment for evangelism to occur.
2. A group of 8-15 people with whom you share life most closely; your greatest sphere of influence.
3. The people for whom God wants to prepare you to become an ideal instrument of grace.

The concept of “oikos” was developed by Tom Mercer, Senior Pastor of High Desert Church in Victorville, CA. It is fully described in his book, “Oikos: Your World, Delivered.”

Fellowship Group Homework and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What feelings do you have when you think about evangelism?
2. What experiences have you had when you have attempted evangelism?
3. What thought from last week’s sermon impacted you the most? Why?

Going Deeper

4. Read John 4:1-45.
What the disciples returned from town, how many people did they bring with them to meet Jesus?
5. When the woman returned from town, how many people did she bring with her to meet Jesus?
6. Even though the disciples knew Jesus better than the woman did and even though they probably had a deeper knowledge of Scripture than she did, what advantage did the woman have that they did not have?

7. If God changed your life today (like the woman at the well), which 10-12 people would you run to tell (and to bring them back to the well to meet Jesus)?

Name

Relationship

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8. How are you better equipped to reach each of these people than Pastor Chris or Billy Graham?

9. Look at your list. What is the ratio of Christians to non-Christians?

- If a person has an oikos full of non-Christians, what is the danger? How would you remedy this (hint: think of our church's three steps)?

- If a person has an oikos full of Christians, what is the danger? How would you remedy this?

10. There are nine excellent questions to ask every time we study a passage of Scripture. Some of them will apply better to one passage while others will apply to another. Pick one of these questions to answer based upon this sermon and your study.

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there a doctrine to believe?
- Is there a challenge to face?

For Deeper Application

Sharing from this section is much more personal and is always voluntary. Only share the answer to this question if you feel comfortable doing so.

11. Think about your oikos. Over the past year, have you brought your oikos closer to God, staying at the same place, or dragging them away from God? Why did you answer in this way?