A Traveler's Guide: Learning to be Gospel Fluent (part 1)

July 14, 2019   Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

1 Peter 3:15-16; 2:9-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 4:4   Pastor Mark Turner

B.L.E.S.S. Rhythms: living w/ Christ's attitude
Bless; Listen; Eat; Speak; Sabbath/Celebrate/Recreate

Living with Gospel Intentionality
* Continually thinking about the <u>power of the Gospel</u>   Who I am
  leads us to act with <u>the purpose of the Gospel</u>   What I do
* 1 Cor 2:1-5; 1 Pet 3:15-16   *keep your hearts at attention in adoration*
* What defines your life? The Bible or your Culture

How to have Gospel Conversations
* Learn to become GOSPEL FLUENT!
* All of life is sacred 1 Pet 2:9-10 because we are redeemed   1:3; 2:9,11;4:1

Thinking in terms of the Gospel
* Every person is an INTERPRETER. Same experience, different interpretation.
* Humanity must interpret story according to God's Word - Mt 4:4; Dt 8:3
* Look for Four Points of Intersection w/ People's Story:

Creation	people talk about who they are and what they are meant to be
Fall	people will talk about what is wrong with them or what is wrong with the world or who they can blame for problems
Redemption	most people will also have a sense of what needs to happen for things to be put right
Restoration	people often talk about the state of affairs that they are hoping will give them meaning or satisfaction with life

Looking at Gen 3 through the 4 Points of Intersection:

Category	my...	Serpent Gen 3 interpretation	Biblical interpretation
Creation	my identity	You are meant to be gods	We are made in God's image to reflect His glory, to love God (obey), and to love others
Fall	my problem	You have been held back by God and His insecurities	We have rebelled against God's rule, but our self-rule leads to conflict, slavery & judgment
Redemption	my solution	You can be set free by disobeying God	God restores His rule by sending Jesus and graciously enabling us to live under His rule by paying the price of sin on the cross
Restoration	my hope	You will be gods...	God will recreate this broken world when Jesus returns!

Example: "I am leaving my wife, she won't listen..."

Creation	I should be in control or sovereign	We are made to find freedom <u>under</u> God's sovereignty - 4 G's
Fall	My wife prevents me from being sovereign	We rejected God's sovereignty in favor of self-sovereignty.
Redemption	I will avoid people who won't let me be sovereign	God welcomes back rebels under His sovereignty through the Cross (Jesus)!
Restoration	My sovereignty is never challenged	God will restore His liberating rule over my world and His

Questions to ask...
* How do they define salvation?   *I will be happy if...*
* What must they do to be saved?   *To achieve this I must...*

Creation	What do they assume the world should look like? What kind of person would they like to be? Who are their heroes? What would have to be in place for them to feel happier?
Fall	How do they describe their struggles and battles? What do they feel is their most pressing problem? What do they feel they lack? Who or what do they think is responsible?
Redemption	What do they think will make life better? What provides a sense of escape or release? Who or what will deliver their hopes? What are their functional saviors?
Restoration	What are their hopes? What is the long-term project to which they are working? What are the dreams for which they make sacrifices? Have they given up so that their hope has shrunk simply to getting through the day?

Apply It:
* LISTEN for the 4 points of intesection: C.F.R.R. in stories of life
* Start by Gospeling YOURSELF!
* Get in community & Gospel Believers regularly (and them you)
* LISTEN to Not-Yet-Believers (those God places in your life) and see how you can relate and begin asking good questions to expose their false "gods" and point them to Jesus - the One sent to redeem us and do what we can't do... save ourselves.
* Are you in a Missional Community or relationships with believers where you are regularly (more than Sunday) "gospeling" one another?