

**Bill Paige: June 7, 2020**  
**Devotions/Discussion**

The following questions and activities can be used for individual daily devotions and small group discussion of this week's sermon. As you reflect on Bill's message and the various Scripture passages this week, ask the Lord to speak to you personally

**1. Authority Without Power**

Bill Paige shared the story of his years as in the police department. He described himself as a person with authority, but no power.

Read **2 Tim 1:7** Where does true power come from? What other qualities are meant to come in the same "package" with power? Describe some differences between authority and true power. Pray that God would develop these qualities in you, and that he would use them to move those around you toward peace and justice.

Read **2 Corinthians 5:17** What evidence of this this kind of change did you hear in Bill's testimony? Thank God for some of the ways he has changed you since you became a new creation.

**2. Don't You Care?**

Jesus was asleep in the boat as the disciples were bailing out the water that was overtaking the boat in the midst of the storm. The disciples blamed Jesus, saying, "Don't you care?" Bill said we often play this same blame game in today's world.

Read **Mark 4:35 – 40**. Do you react similar to the disciples? Who are some people you have blamed? Instead of blaming others, we can cast our cares on the Lord.

Read **Psalms 55:22**, "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken." How can this verse help calm our hearts in the midst of storms and change our response?

**3. Not a "What" or a "How", but a "WHO"!**

The ultimate cause of the problems in today's world is sin. The answer is not a "what" or a "how" – but a "who." It's Jesus! Bill challenged us to be the difference and share Jesus with the world.

Read **Romans 1:16**. Paul reminds us that the Gospel is powerful enough to change anyone! Who is someone you don't think can change? Commit to pray for that person – pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with them, and for God to change them!

Our actions (what we do / don't do) reflect whether we are ashamed or proud of the Gospel. What are some differences in the life of a person who is ashamed of the Gospel and someone who isn't? Now, prayerfully consider your own life. What do your actions reveal? Pray for the Spirit to convict you and empower you to change, if needed.

#### **4. A Sound Mind**

Bill helped us see that the acts of injustice that we are seeing in our world are to be faced with a sound mind that only Jesus can offer. He pointed out that before the apostle Paul's eyes were opened by Jesus, he sent out warrants of arrest for people who were innocent. Once his inner storm was quelled, Paul was no longer a threat to innocent people. He became part of the solution!

Look up the following passages and

Read **Philippians 2:1-11** According to these verses, what does it mean to have "the mind of Christ"?

Read **Colossians 1:15-27** Describe the ultimate reconciliation. What does it mean to have "Christ in you, the hope of glory"? (see v.27)

#### **5. Pray. Seek. Turn.**

Bill reminded us that vengeance is not our role in changing the world. Instead, if we adopt the pattern of life laid out for us in 2 Chronicles 7:14, he will hear from heaven and will heal our land!

Read **2 Chronicles 7:14** and ask yourself these questions:

- Am I **called by his name**? (Have I trusted Jesus as my Savior?)
- Am I **humble**?
- Do I **pray** about injustice?
- Am I willing to **turn from my wicked ways** as God points them out?
- Do I **seek his face**? (Do I spend time with Him and read His word?)

Make **Psalm 51:1-10** your prayer of confession and cleansing so that God's power can be displayed through you to influence a hurting world!