

I. Introduction

- A. 14 Peaks: Nirmal Purja (Nims) from Nepal
  - 1. Project Possible: scaling 14 of the highest peaks in the world (8,000m/26,000+ft) within a seven month timeframe (previous record = seven years)
  - 2. Mountains such as Annapurna, Everest, and K2
  - 3. Did it in six months and six days
  - 4. Couldn't get anyone to sponsor or fund so he mortgaged his home and put everything he had on the line. Older brother didn't agree, did not speak for months and his mother was ill trending toward death.
  - 5. \*What incredible passion, conviction, drive to risk everything to do something significant... hold that thought.

- B. Reproof, revelation, restoration. God, though the person of the Holy Spirit, has his people in a process of reproof, revelation, and restoration. Every one of us.

II. Reproof

- A. Where we are: an inventory
  - 1. We inhabit the time God has designed for all people to be drawn to himself before the judgment (either you are forgiven because of Jesus death, resurrection, and ascension or you are not)
  - 2. Q: Does your intimacy with Jesus reflect the opportunities and resources you have at your disposal?
    - a. Is Jesus more of a celebrity in your life or is he a savior-king?
    - b. Is obedience to Jesus an idea or a defining characteristic that you are known for?

B. Matthew 25

- 1. Jesus, in Matthew 25, leads us to understand what it means to be faithful.
  - a. Vs 1-13: the foolish thought faithfulness would be easier than it turned out to be
  - b. Vs 14-30: the foolish thought faithfulness would be harder than it turned out to be
  - c. Vs 31-46: there is something more to faithfulness than just knowledge
  - d. \*Point: Faithful stewardship is identified by the way my thinking and behavior reflects the character of the King I serve.
- 2. Observations from vs 14-30
  - a. All believers are entrusted by God but not all are expected to accomplish the same things.
  - b. All believers are expected to do their best as faithful stewards of their time, resources, and influence.
  - c. No faithfulness difference between the first two servants
  - d. Faithfulness is not 10% of what we are and what we have. Faithfulness is 100%.

III. Revelation

- A. Where are we going?
  - 1. Honestly, I don't know. I have no five-year plan for our church to become something special or powerful or influential.

2. What I do know is that we need to be living our lives as individuals and as a community in a peculiar way here and now to “prepare the way” for the return of Jesus.
    - a. We need to be filled with the Spirit, feeding on the Word of God, and living intentionally in our immediate spaces.
    - b. You and I are not made to demonstrate the glory of humanity. We are made to demonstrate the glory of God.
    - c. \*Over these last years, many have been quick to give their opinions in God’s name assuming He agrees with their opinions. We are so quick to speak in our generation that we often do not discern what God is actually saying. You’re welcome to disagree, but I firmly believe that God has simply wanted us to hold our tongues and be silent before Him until He chooses to speak.
  3. Feeling what God feels is not an emotional experience the way we typically encounter our emotion. Feeling what God feels is a settled sense of reality that comes as our spirit and will become aligned with God.
  4. One of the main reasons I believe we see so little miraculous power is because we are too strong and too self-dependent. I don’t know that we really are intimately connected to Jesus or recognize the Holy Spirit in our lives. If we were, we’d realize that weakness must be embraced before we experience the greatness of God’s power.
  5. \*How much of your weekly activity can be accomplished without the power of God? (And for that matter, our church’s weekly activity?)
  6. \*If the Holy Spirit was absent, unavailable for consultation, would our lives change that much if at all?
- B. Revealing of two symbiotic things
1. Intimacy with Jesus
    - a. Intimacy is really knowing and really being known by another
      - 1) We tend to use spatial language (close, distant)
      - 2) Intimacy is not spatial, it is relational
    - b. Intimacy is not ...
      - 1) Knowledge
        - a) Does not occur through knowledge accumulation
        - b) We have more theological knowledge available today (Bible translations, good books, insightful articles, recorded sermons, interviews, movies, documentaries, music, etc.) than ever before.
        - c) But we are not abounding in Enochs who walk with God in a profoundly intimate way.
        - d) \*Not new, see John 14
 

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”
      - 2) Aesthetic experience
        - a) Worship events, gatherings, revivals, things that make me feel like I am with Jesus and good about He and I

- b) (Example: candle lit dinner with all the trappings does not equal an intimate relationship with another)
  - c. Intimacy is most understood and present in trust. More trust, more intimacy
  - d. \*What you must trust God most for right now is where He wants you to draw closer to Him. I guarantee that your flesh says, "No thanks."
2. Faithfulness to Jesus
- a. Obedience: the courage to do what we know because of who we know
  - b. Faithfulness is the re-ordering of our lives to reflect what is important to God and His Kingdom.
    - 1) So, what is important to God and His Kingdom?
    - 2) I can only answer and live that out if I am intimate with Jesus.
    - 3) \*What is important to God is that more people call Jesus King and that those who already do love each other and are of one mind (John 17).

#### IV. Restoration

- A. I am beginning to recognize the pathway to restoration.
- 1. I am utterly unable to do the very thing God has called me to do.
- 2. Therefore, if there is any chance of success, then I must become truly dependent on His power and His timing.
- 3. Information and experience will not make the difference. My life is the message that matters (we've divorced what we say from who we are).
  - a) \*I am called to declare the glory of God and the weakness of human pride as are you. But if we have not had our own pride shattered, we cannot be a demonstration of the message we are called to speak and our words will lack power. Weakness forces us to become a demonstration of the words we speak. When this happens in my life, I can create a confrontation without speaking a word because I am the message. Example: Mother Teresa.
  - b) What message are you?
- 4. If this feels foreign to you or you have a bunch of "yeah, buts", then I would ask you to honestly reflect on whether you have real intimacy with Jesus. It also might be a prudent to consider whether or not you are faithful according to Jesus, not just compared to others.
- 5. \*The good news is that faithfulness is not easy, but it is not as hard as you may think. It does take humble surrender but you're not alone.

#### B. Nim's 14 Peaks

- 1. Remember Project Possible? In order to even attempt it, Nims had to risk everything he had. He gave up everything because he knew that he could, with his team, ascend 14 8,000m mountains in six months.
- 2. I believe that God has moved and called us to a Project Possible for here and now.
  - a. The question is, "Are you willing to risk everything that you depend on and have built to become that peculiar people here and now to prepare the way for Jesus?"
  - b. As impressive as Nim's journey is, it is nothing compared to what Jesus wants from us nor does it even matter in comparison.

\*I have experienced God's reproof over the last couple years in my life. He's woke me up. And through humiliation he has revealed to me my true state and what needs to happen. I and others here are CrossPoint who have experienced this are going to obey and lead into real intimacy with Jesus and costly faithfulness to Jesus. I'm inviting you to follow me into this restoration of the people of God for the kingdom of God. What I know is that this is impossible with the power of humanity but with God this "project" is not just possible, it's guaranteed. It's time to shatter the illusions of our own grandeur and callings and live with all our strength to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus not in our way but his way. That's where I'm headed and that's where I'm leading.