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People Spot Missile: It's Jesus and People!

God is so good. He cares for people. How do we know that? All you have to do is look at Jesus. When you see Jesus you can see God. Jesus said “*“Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?.”* John 14:9-10

Jesus was kind and gentle with children. In fact, he became quite upset when the disciples felt so busy that they would have turned some children away. He said, *“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”* Matthew 19:14 Children are such good judges of character. They loved Jesus. My favorite pictures are of Jesus and children. He was always sensitive because people were important to him and because he cared for them.

Jesus was kind and gentle with those who were sick. He was so gentle with the woman who touched the hem of his garment. He healed the blind, lame, demon-possessed, and those who were ill from a variety of sicknesses. He was always sensitive because people were important to him and because he cared for them.

Jesus was kind and gentle with those who mourned. In many instances, Jesus raised the dead to life. But they were raised to die again. But, again he was loving and kind. We can feel his kindness in our times of mourning. He is also so helpful because he gives us hope that because he lives, we shall have the hope of life eternal. He was always sensitive because people were important to him and because he cared for them.

Jesus was kind and gentle with those who sinned. A woman caught in sin was dragged before him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ⁸*Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.* ⁹*At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.* ¹⁰*Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"* ¹¹*"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."* John 8:8-11 He was always sensitive because people were important to him and because he cared for them.

Church is really not about technology. I know about computers, projectors, the internet and all kind of things. But church is really not about technology. It is about Jesus and his love for people. Technology is not an end in itself. It is only important as it is used to communicate to people that Jesus loves them. Jesus was always sensitive because people were important to him and because he cared for them.

Church is really not about music. I know there are all kinds of styles of music. I understand that different people like different kinds of music. I don't care whether you use an organ, piano, keyboard, guitars, and/or drums. Music is only important as it is used to communicate to people that Jesus loves them. Jesus was always sensitive because people were important to him and because he cared for them.

Church is really not about the outreach marketing you do. What is the motivation? So you can have enough people to pay the bills? Not good enough. Outreach is only important as it is used to communicate to people that Jesus loves them. Jesus was always sensitive because people were important to him and because he cared for them.

Church is really not about church growth. I'm sure that is a surprise to those of you who know me. But hear me out. Much church growth is simply the moving of people from one church to another. That is simply rearranging the Kingdom. What about the people who don't know Jesus? Jesus loves people...all of us. A concern to grow the church is relevant only as it is used to reach people who don't know Jesus. Jesus was always sensitive because people were important to him and because he cared for them.

I have averaged more than 125 on-site visits to local churches a year for over 30 years. Many Christians in churches are always looking for the magic elixir that will break open the door have people crashing in. I want churches to effectively use technology. I want churches to have good music whatever the style. I want your church to make meaningful outreach efforts. And yes I want your church to grow.

The Bible has the simple solution... *"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."* John 3:14-15 Jesus also said, *"Love your neighbor as yourself."* Matthew 22:39

Here it is. **Lift up Jesus and love people.** How can we know Jesus so that we can lift him up? Study the gospels. How do we love people? Reach out wherever the need may be.

Pastors, you can't hide in your office and pretend to be busy. Congregations, you can't hide in the four walls of your building and play church. You have to follow the lead of scripture and lift up Jesus and love people.