

Taking Worship into your Week
6.21.2020 - Gospel DNA: Adaptability

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Matthew 15:21-28

And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Prayer

Pray for people who have adapted the truth to suit themselves, and then pray for the ability to speak/live the truth, adapting your methods and heart so that you might "win some."

Talk about one or more of the following with a friend or family member or discuss with someone who can point you back to Jesus and his love for you.

1. There is considerable difference between being a "people-pleaser" and using your God-given talents and gifts to speak truth to others in a way they will understand. What are some of those differences?
2. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul was describing how he adapted his message...even his very self...to the people he desired to win over. What are some specific ways we as a congregation can adapt the message – and ourselves - with the diverse people in our area?

3. What Matthew describes Jesus saying to the Canaanite woman sounds harsh, on the surface...how do you understand what Jesus was truly saying to her? How did he “adapt” the way he shared the truth, in her case?

4. Name some ways people, even of the church, adapt the truth itself, to please themselves. Are there examples that can be found in our congregation?

5. By now, we are clear that the ability to adapt the way we share and live the truth, depending on our circumstances and needs, is in the DNA of the gospel. What ways might we adapt in our congregation, to meet our present and future circumstances and needs?