

The New Strategy

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 16:5-33.

B. Churches that make an impact are rare because we have changed the strategy of the church.

II. The Lord's strategy.

A. Everything is going to start with an inwardly transformed people.

1. The Spirit convinces the world through the believers He indwells.

2. What the Spirit does to the church will impress the world.

3. The Spirit will convince the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.

a. Sin is a destructive force to ruin the beauty of humanity as God intended it to be. The world learns by watching the church that the reason for their pain is being out of touch with reality.

b. The source of the gift of wholeness or righteousness is Jesus. (II Corinthians 5)

1) We love to see wholeness in action.

2) The inner wholeness of the Spirit will gradually change the outer actions.

c. The world will learn of the judgment of Satan. The world will learn that believers have been set free from Satan's power.

d. In sum, the world learns about beauty, wholeness and liberty.

C. Jesus promises to guide unto all truth.

1. He refers to the New Testament in this.

2. He will declare to us what is to come.

3. Jesus will be glorified in it all.

D. Jesus tells his disciples that He will depart to provide a transforming access.

1. He refers to the crucifixion by this.

2. We struggle because our point of view is limited.

3. Sorrow over Jesus' departure would turn into joy.

4. Jesus links it all to prayer.

E. There will be security in the Father's love—an unfailing platform to rest.

F. God's program is making people strong out of weakness—a divine recovery program.

Application questions:

1. What is the Spirit's work before the world? Why is the church a necessary element in this?

2. Why is the Bible so important for making an impact for Jesus today? What is your plan for learning the Scriptures at a deeper level?

3. How would you respond to a person who says that Christians cannot make any mistakes otherwise they are headed for failure?
