

Unbelievable

Episode 7: Unbelie-Babel!

INTRODUCTION - Tower Power!

THE STORY - What does God have against towers?! Genesis 11:1-9

- Context: An ancient tale that follows the events of Noah and The Flood. The earth is becoming repopulated and a civilization emerges.
- Geography: The events most likely take place in the area that would one day be home to the Babylonian Empire as well as modern day Iraq.
- Construction Zone: A building program begins featuring a city and a tower.
- Why build?: The motivation for building the city seems to be rooted in the fear of being scattered across the earth. A common language and new technology help to fuel the endeavor.
- What's in a Name?: The construction project also seems motivated by the desire for these people to "make a name" for themselves. This could be rooted in simple pride as well as the desire to achieve a reputation so that people "won't mess with them".
- Unbelievable! God is concerned about this construction project and intervenes by confusing their language - thereby scattering them across the earth (exactly what they were afraid of!)

LOOKING DEEPER - Take outs from The Tower

Take-out #1 - The nature of _____ in the Kingdom of God is marked by humility, service, simplicity and contentment.

Micah 6:8, Phil 2:3-4, 1 Thessalonians 4:11, Hebrews 13:5

MONDAY AM APPLICATION

- Volunteer with a local Meeting House Partner organization.
- Instead of buying clothes, sponsor a child with World Vision or MCC.
- Convert TV Watching into conversation with someone in need.
- Have a garage sale and give the funds to a relief agency.
- Use your vacation time for a cross-cultural serving experience.



SELF OTHERS

THE SCALES OF SERVING

Take-out #2 - Harness the technology, tools and resources at your disposal in order to _____ others | Peter 4:10

MONDAY AM APPLICATION

- Use your home as a base of operations for serving.
- Offer your car for those needing transportation.
- Fully stocked Kitchen? You know what to do!
- Cottage? Offer it as a place of rest and refuge.
- Use your skills in trades or technology to benefit others.

Take-out #3 - Our unity should _____ others, not lead to a Babel-like Fortress Mentality. Matthew 17:23, 22:37-39

MONDAY AM APPLICATION

- Befriend those who are lonely and marginalized in our community.
- Invite someone in our community to Home Church.
- Invite a Seeking Friend to Church on Sunday.

CONCLUSION - Becoming Bilingual

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

Warming Up ...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one new thing you learned, or one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.

Look to the Book ...

2. Take some time and read the scripture about Babel in order to familiarize yourself with the story (Genesis 11:1-9). a) Does any part of this story stand out to you in particular? If so, why? b) Read Acts 2:1-13. In what way are these events at Pentecost a type of reversal of the story of Babel? b) Why would the scattering of these people at the end of this story be a good thing?
3. Re-examine the passages that we looked at under Take Away #2 (Micah 6:8, Phil 2:3-4, 1 Thessalonians 4:11, Hebrews 13:5). Discuss the nature of ambition in the light of God's Agenda in the world. a) In what practical ways could these verses work themselves out in our personal lives and our Home Churches? b) What are the barriers in our personal lives, work places and church communities that we face in applying these texts? c) What kind of impact would applying these verses have in our church and in our community?
4. a) Thinking back to the Babel text, in what ways were the people in that story unified? Read John 17:20-26; Romans 15:5 and Ephesians 4:3. b) Why is the unity of the church so important? B) What are some practical ways that we can guard the unity amongst one another?

So what?

5. Read the following quote by Tom Wright: "Love is the way of life in the new world to which, by grace, we are bound. We need to learn it here and now. It is the grammar of the language we shall speak there. The more progress we make in it here, the better we shall be equipped." a) If Love is the language of The Kingdom of God - what are some specific ways that we can make progress in practicing it in our group and in our community? Thinking specifically about benevolence as we head into the fall, what are some practical plans we can make today in practicing love in this area?

Paul Morris @ The Meeting House - Sunday, August 20/ 27, 2006