

TIPPING POINT

“TIPPING POINT: The point at which a series of small ineffective changes acquires enough pressure or importance to cause a larger, more significant change. “

Take one of the stools on the stage for instance. How hard would it be to push it over? NOW what about tipping over a boulder in Colorado? Our church is in the middle of a Tipping Point. We are experiencing momentum like we've never had before...we just removed our freakin welcome center to make room for more seats!

It's a blast, encouraging, rewarding but it's during times like these that many leaders and organizations make big mistakes. Instead of being excited about and encouraged by the force that causes the tipping point they begin to idolize the object of it. Here's what that looks like...We stop being focused on our one main objective as a church, and we replace that with a myriad of other objectives... nice buildings, good events, great technical aspects, amazing preaching...incredible music, increased convenience. It's important that we maintain our main objective...it's a military kind of thing

MILITARY MODEL VS. POLITICAL MODEL

Military – singular objective

Political – thousands of objectives all affected with one direction, earmarks, pork barrel spending...

We have to fight against the Consumerism Nature that we all deal with. Where you come to a church and say, “OK, what are you going to do now to please me?” Like the guest food area that is now gone. It's gone because we don't exist as a church to feed your stomach. It served a purpose for a while and now its history. We've had a lot of things like that in the past that had to go. Why did they have to go? Simple... It either directly contributes to our singular objective, or it's removed.

So here is what I want to remind us all of today, in this state of excitement and momentum, we have to remember what got us here. We have to remember exactly why we are here and what we are doing. To remind us all, and keep us all on track, I want to feature the challenge found in Psalm 107

Psalm 107:1-3 New Living Translation ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. ²Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies. ³For he has gathered the exiles from many lands, from east and west, from north and south.

Psalm 107:2 King James Version Let the redeemed of the LORD say so...

Psalm 107:2 New International Version Let the redeemed of the LORD say this...

First, “redeemed” (this is a bit of a review for some people here, but it’s reviewing this info is good for us). When we see a word with “re” on the front, we think it’s a repetition of the latter part of the word

1. review – “viewing again”
2. rewire – “wiring again”
3. repaint – “painting again”
4. redo – “doing again”

So naturally, when we see the word Redeem, we think the same...this is Deeming again...wrong. Deem means to regard or consider in a specific way. As in “Today’s church service was ‘deemed successful’ “ In that case, God would be “considering us again”...lame. The word comes from the Latin “Redemptio” (this is all consistent with biblical Hebrew as well). The “d” is from the Old Latin habit of using “red” in place of “re” when the first part of the next word started with a vowel.

Like “reeducate”, since that’s two e’s next to each other... they would insert a “d” to make it rededucate. The thinking was that it make the word easier to pronounce. According to etymology dictionaries, “Redeem” is the last remaining word that maintains this old habit. So if it’s not “deeming again”, what is it? The “eme” part comes from the Latin word “Emerere”.

“EMERERE”; to take, buy, gain, procure. So when you put “re” in front of that you get “to buy back”, “to take back”, “to ransom” in which something once belonged to someone, and now, due to some form of theft or take over, that someone is in the position to reacquire the object. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US. What does his enemy do?

JOHN 10:10 NIV “The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy...”

We first belonged to God as his creations. Then, through Adam and Eve, the thief came and stole our allegiance and our innocence. In a sense, we became separated from God due to this external temptation and now it’s time for a rescue. So what does God do? Re/emere.

He has stepped into human history, through Jesus, to reacquire each of us personally... to pay the ultimate price to buy us back. The price has been paid...and now Jesus stands as our rescuer. Christians are redeemed...bought back, ransomed and rescued from the enemy, and preserved through the act of salvation. PRAISE GOD FOR REDEMPTION! LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO! Wait... what’s the point of the rest of the verse...this “say so” business? This brings me back to our Tipping Point

In times of Tipping Points, great excitement, zeal, momentum...it’s easy to lose focus of original intent, design and mission. “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.” Saying so. It’s one of the most focused, succinct, obvious presentations in the bible of how we are supposed to live, and what we are supposed

to be known for. Saying So, is living with a readiness to give credit where credit is due...IT MEANS TO BOAST. Example: if anyone has ever saved your life, you were quick to talk about it, to let people know what happened. Why? Because your very existence is due to their act of saving. You couldn't have done it without them...so, in a sense, you want to make them famous.

The best example for me is my wife. When I started out in ministry, I was very messed up. I was a legalist, arrogant, hypocritical, and a horrible teacher...there's a great combo for a preacher. Tonia stepped into my life and rescued me from myself, from being so arrogant that I could wing it and present God's truth without adequate preparation, from surrounding myself with Yes men. And this isn't just about my career...she rescued me from a lifestyle of judgment, condemnation, and truthfully introduced me to the concept of Christian freedom. You could say then, in a sense, that she is a redeemer in my life. And since she is that, I am very ready and excited to talk about her to anyone that inquires about my success. But she just did that on a present tense, temporary status in my life. It wasn't an eternal form of redemption. Only God does that through Christ. ...And still, how many of us are incredibly slow on the draw to talk about him?

You don't "say so" for many reasons; don't know what to say, don't want to mess it up, don't want to be embarrassed, don't feel prepared. I remember feeling that. I made buttons for me and some of my classmates to wear at school... they said "Jesus is the Answer". Then someone asked me, "What's the question?" I was clueless how to respond...man I wish I had that moment to do over again. Here are some questions...How do I get to heaven? How do I get peace inside my soul? How do I deal with temptation and win? How do I get forgiveness when I break the moral code of my religion?

One thing we all know...Saying So, or Boasting about God, and what He has done in your life...it's very hard to do, and sometimes scary. What we need is people with Baptism Bravery. Today some people are going to get baptized, they will tell the story of how God has saved them with their bodies, they will go under water, to symbolize a dead life without Jesus that is now gone and they will then come up out of the water to symbolize a new life with Jesus that has begun. And all of these people are very courageous and they are all humble in heart, to the point that they will willingly be dunked in front of a lot of people, to tell their story. Its bravery...it's saying so...and its how we should all live. One of my favorite movie quotes comes from We Bought a Zoo...

DAD: What happened with you and Lilly?

SON: I don't know. I guess I didn't listen to something she told me or something. I mean, I liked her. It's like you embarrass yourself if you say something, and you embarrass yourself if you don't.

DAD: You know, sometimes all you need is 20 seconds of insane courage...just literally 20 seconds of just embarrassing bravery. And I promise you something great will come of it.

What could that mean for those of you here today that are redeemed? It could mean that you live a life with Jesus more at the center...that you have him more on the tip of your tongue, than at the back of

your mind...that you replace a part of your ungodly lifestyle with something more like God...that you give more of your resources to God's causes here on earth...that you actually talk to someone about Jesus.

So what Tipping Point are you at today? Where are you almost to the point, but just hanging on, like that boulder in Colorado. What are you honestly holding on to? Let that thing go. God has redeemed you. Now...live with a "say so" attitude!