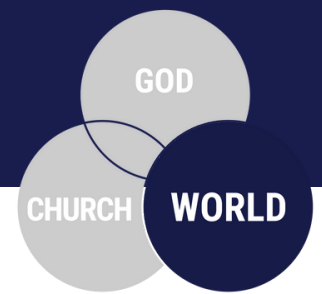


AWARENESS

I see the needs of the world and respond to them



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

In Luke chapter 4, we read of the first recorded sermon of Jesus. During this sermon, Jesus proclaims that he is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah in regards to the year of Jubilee. Jesus reads from a scroll the following: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Jesus reveals the heart of his mission when he rolls up the scroll and proclaims to those hearing, that he, himself, is the fulfillment of the words of Isaiah. As followers of Jesus, we are meant to continue the mission and work of Jesus. That mission and work has this heartbeat at its center.

HOW DOES AWARENESS HAPPEN?

Micah 6:8 says the following: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Awareness starts with God. As the verse says we are simply mortal humans. Our awareness is limited as a result. We need to rely on God to show us what is needed in our world. We then rely on God to respond to the need. This is important, because awareness has two parts to it. We need to SEE the need. And we need to RESPOND to the need.

In order to be able to participate in the rhythm of awareness, we need to ask God to allow us to see with his eyes and hear with his ears. Basically, we need to view the world around us through the filter of the Holy Spirit. We then need to ask God to allow us to respond with his heart. That response begins with the heart. It always starts there. We can do a good job at performing actions to respond to the needs of those around us. However, those actions need to have a heart of love at its focus in order to point others to Jesus.



PROCESS

Think through what you have learned and summarize it on your own words or write out how you would explain it to another person.

PRAY

- Pray that God allows you to see with his eyes, hear with his ears, and respond with his heart. Pray for the needs of those who are going through difficulties, persecutions or injustice.

LOOK

- Look around you. Pay attention to what is happening with the marginalized, needy and outcast. Where are there opportunities to step in with responses of love, grace and mercy? Where are there opportunities to stand up for those in need?

RESPOND

- Begin to support or work with organizations that meet the needs of the world. Perhaps you begin with supporting a child with Compassion International. Maybe you can support the work of International Justice Mission. Find an organization locally, regionally and internationally, that you can begin to learn about and also support through giving or volunteering.

