



A PEOPLE CALLED

17 August 2025

Summary:

This message focuses on the importance of prayer and seeking God's presence as the foundation for impactful Christian living and ministry. Bruce emphasizes that true spiritual impact comes from a deep, personal relationship with Jesus, and that this relationship is cultivated through dedicated prayer time. The message calls believers to be "IMPACTERS" - people whose lives have been transformed by God and who then impact others through their lives and actions.

Key Points:

- God's method is to call individuals when He wants to accomplish something
- Prayer and seeking God's face should precede action in ministry
- An "IMPACTER" is someone whose life has been impacted by God and who then impacts others
- The importance of creating sacred spaces and reminders of encounters with God
- The need for protected, daily prayer time as a non-negotiable priority
- The global vision of Impact as a movement of Christ-centered individuals
- The power of God's presence to bring wisdom, courage, and perseverance

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 4:13 - "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

Stories:

- The story of Moses encountering God in the burning bush (Exodus 3)
- St. Francis of Assisi hearing God's call to "rebuild my church"
- The testimony of a family impacted by the "Catholic Guy" ministry through a magnet invitation
- Personal anecdotes about keeping mementos as reminders of significant spiritual moments

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
(For Individual Reflection)

- How can we cultivate a deeper personal relationship with Jesus in our daily lives, and what practices might help us 'live close to Jesus' as the speaker emphasizes?
- In what ways can we become more attuned to hearing God's voice in our lives, and how might this impact our decision-making and actions?
- How does the concept of being an 'IMPACTER' - someone impacted by God who then impacts others - challenge or inspire you in your own faith journey?
- What does it mean to you to 'carry the presence of Christ into every sphere of life,' and how might this look different in various professions or life stages?
- How can we balance the need for strategic planning and human analysis with listening for God's voice in our personal and communal decision-making processes?
- In what ways might creating 'sacred places' or using physical reminders of our encounters with God strengthen our faith and help us remember His promises?
- How does the story of Moses and the burning bush inform our understanding of how God calls and prepares people for His purposes?
- What role does perseverance play in our spiritual growth, and how can we cultivate this quality in our prayer life and relationship with God?
- How might viewing God as our ultimate provider change our approach to prayer, worship, and service?
- In what ways can we, as individuals and communities, create space for encountering God's presence before engaging in mission or service?

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Pray the IMPACTERS prayer together as a group. Ask God to open your hearts and minds to His message and to guide your discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. IMPACTERS are people whose lives have been impacted by God, who then impact others by their lives.
2. The foundation of this movement is an ever-deepening personal relationship with Jesus.
3. Prayer and seeking God's presence are essential before taking action.
4. God's provision begins with Him giving us Himself, not just material things.
5. Mission flows from worship and coming close to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you personally to be an "IMPACTER"? How have you seen this play out in your own life?
2. The sermon emphasizes the importance of seeking God before taking action. Can you share an experience where you've seen the benefit of this approach?
3. How would you describe your current prayer life? What challenges do you face in maintaining consistent, meaningful prayer time?
4. Bruce mentions that "*provision without presence just leads to burnout.*" Have you ever experienced this in your spiritual journey or ministry efforts?
5. Discuss the statement: "*The gospel has always advanced through people who knew how to slow down long enough to hear the voice of the shepherd and then obey what he said.*" How can we practically apply this in our busy lives?
6. The sermon talks about being "*recognizably Christ-centered.*" What do you think this looks like in everyday life?
7. How can we cultivate a heart that "*breaks for the city*" or for those who don't know Christ?

Practical Applications:

1. Set aside protected time for prayer each day this week. Start with 10-15 minutes if you're not used to extended prayer times.
2. Create a "sacred space" in your home as a reminder of God's presence and your commitment to seek Him.
3. Before making any significant decisions this week, intentionally pause to seek God's guidance through prayer and Scripture.
4. Identify one sphere of influence in your life (work, family, community) where you can intentionally be an "IMPACTER" this week.
5. Practice asking others, "What did God say to you today?" to encourage spiritual conversations and accountability.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His presence in your lives and ask for His help in deepening your awareness of Him throughout the coming week.