

Leader's Notes on the "Rooted" series

Week of October 28, 2018

NOTES TO LEADERS: This week's passage takes us into what is perhaps the most specific insight into how Paul was "reaching" on a daily basis. Please invest extra time to discuss in 'HOW' we can be reaching our worlds.

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Read Colossians 4:2-6.

What are Paul's (the author) instructions about prayer?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- **Devote yourselves. Paul is speaking about prayer about mission / reaching. Notice how this unfolds in the verses that follow. "Devote" means "to give constant attention."**
- **"Pray for God to open a door for our message."**
- **Pray that I may proclaim it clearly.**

What were his requests for himself and friends? What was his purpose? (3-4)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Paul's purpose was to help others know the good news and turn to Jesus. His requests were about asking God to open doors of opportunity.

How are we instructed to act toward the 'unconvinced?' (5-6)

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- **Be wise. This required God's wisdom then as it does now.**
- **Make the most of opportunities. This means to believe that God will open doors and when He does, we are to follow His promptings to enter into conversations.**
- **Speech filled with grace. This refers to giving people God's grace in every conversation.**
- **Seasoned with salt. This refers to creating thirst for God by seasoning our conversation. This doesn't mean to share the full gospel. Rather, that we allow God to speak hints toward God and who He is, our faith in Jesus, and our inclusion of all people.**
- **The result is that people will inquire and we will (in God's wisdom) know how to answer people.**

How did Paul model 'teaming up' (rather than alone) to reach our worlds? (2-18)

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- **Mutual prayer for one another**
- **Mutual support, encouragement, comfort, and time together**
- **Mutual instructions**
- **Mutual willingness to suffer for the good news/for Christ.**

Summarize what we learn about being an intentional influence in our worlds?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

Paul's daily life looked like this:

- **Constantly in prayer, asking God to open doors for opportunities to connect and share with the people in His world.**
- **He went through His day "watching" (v. 2) for what God was doing.**

- He went through His day “thanking” God (v. 2) - probably for His own relationship with God and for what God was doing every day.
- When God gave Him opportunity to connect with people in conversation or presentation, Paul prayed and asked God for clarity.
- His conversations were full of grace and seasoned with salt
- He shared how he saw God working with his brothers and sisters with whom he was teamed-up.

Sounds amazing, right?!

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How is prayer connected with being an intentional influence for Christ? Why do we struggle with devoting ourselves to prayer for this purpose? What helps you?

NOTES TO LEADERS: We all know that this is God’s plan: We pray and He opens doors; we pray and he gives us wisdom; we pray and God gives us grace to overflow into people’s lives; we pray and God gives us opportunities to salt the conversations to point people to Him.

We struggle in devoting ourselves to prayer. I believe this is partly due to (1) the independent American in us, (2) we trust in our own strength, (3) we’re not teamed up, (4) we’re not praying, watching, giving thanks and then seeing God work, and (5) we’re not sharing what we see God doing and therefore encouraging one another to pray.

What specific things can we do to ‘team up’ to reach our worlds for Christ? How are we doing at this?

NOTES TO LEADERS: See the notes above. I believe we need to do the above things together – pray missional prayers, encourage one another, share what we see God doing, pray some more, and support one another when things are hard.

What do you read here that could help you personally to reach out in your world?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Yes, this is getting personal. I am hoping someone in your group will express a desire for the above to happen together.

**Praying that this is a week of God speaking to and through you,
Steve**