

Never Forget the 1 PART 2

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

MAIN TAKEAWAY

There's no other feeling like the feeling of soul winning. As believers, we all have a ministry with a message: the Gospel. And in a chaotic and negative world, the Good News is needed. The ministry of reconciliation is the calling of every Christian.

Big Idea: God loves and looks for the lost.

KEY SCRIPTURES & TAKEAWAYS

1. **2 Corinthians 5:18-20 KJV** And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.
 - a. We are called to reconcile people to God and can do that by telling our story.
 - b. Before our career, our service or any other calling, the ministry of reconciliation is our primary calling.
2. **2 Corinthians 5:18-20 TPT** And God has made all things new, and reconciled us to himself, and given us the ministry of reconciling others to God. ¹⁹In other words, it was through the Anointed One that God was shepherding the world, not even keeping records of their transgressions, and he has entrusted to us the ministry of opening the door of reconciliation to God. ²⁰We are ambassadors of the Anointed One who carry the message of Christ to the world, as though God were tenderly pleading with them directly through our lips. So we tenderly plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Turn back to God and be reconciled to him."
 - a. God does not keep record of our sins, we are forgiven by the blood of Jesus. We are free from shame, guilt and condemnation.
 - b. We have all been entrusted with this calling and God wants to use our life as an open door.
 - c. We are ambassadors, representatives of Jesus here on earth and we all have a message to share, that is our story.
 - d. God anoints our words to share with others.

- 2. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 TLB** All these new things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. ²⁰ We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God.
- a. The ministry of reconciliation is a privilege. It's something we get to do and now is the time that people are ready for an open door.
 - b. We all have a message to tell others, and God is using that message to make an impact in the lives of others.
- 3. Luke 15:1-4 KJV** Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.² And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.³ And he spake this parable unto them, saying,⁴ What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?
- a. The publicans (tax collectors) and sinners came to **hear Him**. They were the outcast, not appreciated, hated by others and forgotten.
 - b. The Pharisees (religious people) came with an attitude of complaining, murmuring, looking for things to criticize from Jesus' message.
 - c. Jesus ate with the sinners, that meant He accepted them, but He did not approve of their lifestyle.
 - d. Without a Shepherd (Jesus), the sheep (humanity) will wander into the wilderness (worldliness).
 - e. Jesus taught us to go after the lost, until we find them and **never forget the 1**.

We are to be moved with compassion, not empathy or sympathy.

- Sympathy means feeling sorry.
- Empathy means relating to them.
- Compassion is love in action; it's serving and helping those in need.

REFLECT & REVISIT

Go back and read **2 Corinthians 5:18–20** this week. Reflect on the truth that God has given you the ministry of reconciliation and made you an ambassador for Christ. Ask God to help you see opportunities to share your story and invite someone to experience the love and forgiveness of Jesus.