

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
“Just Walk Across the Room: The Fool’s Bench”
Pastor Dan Chun
THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, September 23, 2007

Read: 2 Corinthians 11:16-21 and Acts 24: 22-27

Additional Thoughts for the Small Group Leader:

1. Just Walk Across the Room, Chapter Two: Bill Hybels
2. You may also want to read 1 Corinthians 1:18-30. It has additional thoughts about being a “Fool for our King”!
3. Here are the words to Michael Card’s Song called “God’s Own Fool”. They parallel Pastor Dan’s sermon as well as Bill Hybel’s writing about the Fool’s Bench.

Seems I've imagined Him all of my life
As the wisest of all of mankind
But if God's Holy wisdom is foolish to men
He must have seemed out of His mind

For even His family said He was mad
And the priests said a demon's to blame
But God in the form of this angry young man
Could not have seemed perfectly sane

Chorus
When we in our foolishness thought we were wise
He played the fool and He opened our eyes
When we in our weakness believed we were strong
He became helpless to show we were wrong
And so we follow God's own fool
For only the foolish can tell-
Believe the unbelievable
And come be a fool as well

So come lose your life for a carpenter's son
For a madman who died for a dream
And you'll have the faith His first followers had
And you'll feel the weight of the beam
So surrender the hunger to say you must know
Have the courage to say I believe
For the power of paradox opens your eyes
And blinds those who say they can see

So we follow God's own Fool
For only the foolish can tell
Believe the unbelievable,
And come be a fool as well

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you really believe that someday the seed you sow will fall on the right soil and produce fruit? Why or why not? How would taking Christ at his word that you *will* produce fruit encourage you to get engaged in the work of evangelism? (Bill Hybel's question, page 55)
2. What has been your experience with the "Fool's Bench" or the "Fool's Doorway"? Have you had times when you have invited people to church who have not made it? How did you feel? Perhaps you were the one invited and it took quite a while and many invitations to actually take a step into church. What was it that finally got you to go to church? What would you recommend to your fellow group members who are trying to invite loved ones or colleagues to church and to faith?
3. The passage in Acts 24 provides a great example of Paul's efforts in evangelism. We never know if Felix and Drusilla come to faith, but we do know that Paul put at least two years of effort into building a relationship with them and offering them faith. Bill Hybels tells many stories in his book that describe years of invested time in relationships. The outcomes are frequently that the individual came to faith, but not always. Does this help to know that your efforts, though seemingly fruitless, are in common with the likes of Paul and Bill Hybels? What helps you persevere in sharing with an individual when it seems that they are uninterested, apathetic, or antagonistic toward Jesus? On the other hand, how do you know when to be quiet? (Remember last week's discussion about promptings).
4. 2 Corinthians 11 and 1 Corinthians 1 (added for this study) presents the reality that following Christ may seem foolish to others. Have you felt this way as a Christian? When? How did you respond to this feeling?
5. Further on in both passages and in Michael Card's song, "God's Own Fool", it is revealed that God's way of doing things often seems paradoxical or backwards. What examples from Jesus' ministry can you give when he "chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise... and the weak things of the world to shame the strong" (1 Cor 1:27)? (Examples: Woman caught in adultery; Jesus' disciples who were uneducated, tax collectors, and generally unknown; when the children 'get it' and the disciples don't; etc) What examples from your own life can you share when you have felt that Jesus turned all your expectations upside down? How does this affect your perspective every day?

THINK small.

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