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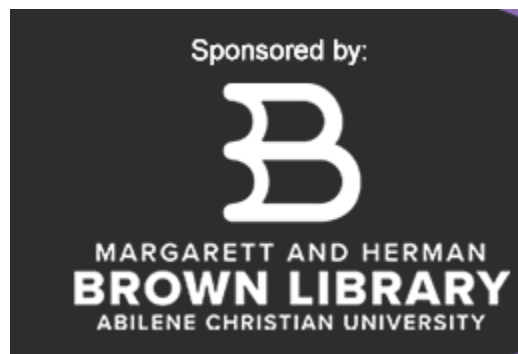
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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, outsider, heartbeat, form, evangelism, experiences, world, involved, feast, life, morning, tended, direction, powers, society, great, sumptuous, god, person, crucial

00:01

Roots

00:03

are several days ago,

00:06

was anytime

00:10

people are chained together their brothers.

00:16

And

00:19

I think that is a very apt

00:22

line that describes really what this what the church is. It's a group of people who are chained together,

00:31

they are bound together in common slavery.

00:35

They're prisoners. But they're prisoners of God.

00:40

And they are bound, both because of a calling. And because of just the nature of the world, that it's about them.

00:53

And I think in, in these past many months, that there has been a certain welding together, or chaining together out of just a lot of our lives and a lot of different kinds of experiences that I think helped to solidify the feeling of just brotherhood at a deep level.

01:26

One of the things that, that you've been a great encouragement in has been the heartbeat ministry.

01:34

And that's the one that we're going to just talk about for a few moments this morning.

01:40

I'd like to point out

01:43

very quickly, anytime that we talk about heartbeat, that heartbeat is not a radio program.

01:52

That's a misnomer.

01:55

That it is just not a radio program. That a radio program is the smallest thing that it is.

02:04

What's heard on the air is extremely vital. But really is only a tiny droplet in what it really is. I guess we all suffer from the need to label things. And so we kind of, we kind of label this thing, heartbeat. And because the the 60 seconds or 180 seconds, as the thing that people find, and see and the thing that's most visible, they're not think that that we tend to think of it, or we're apt to think of it as kind of that or that is the primary thing, that is the major thing. And it really isn't, I like to think of the radio program itself. In this way.

02:54

This afternoon, I guess, based on previous experiences, that there are going to be a lot of tables out there at that activities hall that are going to be full of just a lot of sumptuous foods. And I could I could describe some of them this morning on the basis of the past. And we would probably all be almost ready to dispense with all the remaining activities prior to that time and just get on with the business.

03:29

On those tables, there will be sumptuous things, and nourishing things, things that sustain and preserve and promote physical life.

03:44

But somebody earlier this morning, and the person that brother Elkins invited us

03:54

because the tragedy would be to have all the foods spread and nobody to eat it.

04:01

And so an invitation has been extended, extended through the bulletin. It was extended through one of the elders this morning, it will be extended again in the next hour. And we're extending it right now. It is a summons to come to the feasts.

04:20

I believe that that with heartbeat that we have a table spread with a lot of goodies, sumptuous foods,

04:28

manna from heaven,

04:30

spiritual water,

04:33

that that could bring life and health and hope to people.

04:40

And these, these goodies take the form of all of our common experiences really. And some of them made concrete in the form of teaching materials, as in letters.

04:55

Sometimes meetings that are held in their communities, some

05:00

Times, telephone call, sometimes personal visits, lots of just correspondence specifically, in response to their inquiries into their problems, and, and on to the glories of the revelation of God and Jesus Christ as presented through His Word, and through his body, the church. All of these things, this family that awaits the brothers and sisters that await the heavenly host that awaits all of these things awaiting people, it's all spread. Jesus has already spread the table.

05:41

I like to think of heartbeat as the invitation to come to the feast.

05:48

It, it talks to people who are hungry,

05:54

people who are thirsty, not everyone who hears comes to the feasts. Not everyone probably will even come to the feast this afternoon.

06:04

But there will be there will be certain needs, and certain yearnings within us that will compel us to go to that feast. And it's to this group of people that would kind of send out these messages. It says that a feast is waiting

06:25

in the form of people who care in the form of a message of hope, in the form of light, that is not of this world, and that it awaits the people who will come to the feast. So that heartbeat is really it's just evangelism. And in addition to just being evangelism, it is, it is an evangelistic strategy.

06:53

I like to think of it as a catalyst.

06:56

And it is so much more than what's visible. It is so much more than what's heard on the radio, it is so much more than what goes on in our offices. It's people, it's a lot of people already. It's a lot of people in this church already, who have made valuable in depth, contributions to it, and which contributions have have gone beyond just a contribution stage, to the point of life involvement, partnership, real fellowship, in the work, and I'd love to just name all of those, but I'm, I know I would miss someone.

07:43

These are these come in the forms of people who are involved in a in a formal way, with us that are yoked with us like Tom Albright and others. And it involves people who it just been wonderful, even Friday to walk in the office and look around. And here's Mark, and there's Greg, and here's Dorothy and and you know, here are these people that come in that just, and all and telephoning some people that are close to us. And in describing that you just ought to hear the burbling is on the other end of the line goes, That's so exciting to people. It's, it's an it's so reaffirming, it's so reinforcing to, to us to know that it is that it is such a a beautifully shared experience. Now, it's because of that, that, that this step that we're in right now is being taken to

08:49

I don't know just how to say it, we we toy with the word expanding,

08:55

or with the word the centralizing

09:00

defusing to some extent.

09:03

But the whole point is that rather than to attempt the direction, just from one place, that we will take advantage of this growing bank of resources arising in different parts of the country, so that more people still can be involved. And this is has caused a concept to involve to evolve, in which different things will be done in different places. In Houston, there's interest there and a financial way and an encouraging way. And so part of that's going to be done out of Houston.

09:46

In Springfield, Missouri, there has been just sustained interest in content and the creative aspects of the program. And again, thinking of the the pluralism of our society, we need

10:00

an awfully lot of input from a lot a lot of people over a wide area as to exactly what's done on the air, what form the message is take what the substance of the content really is. And these are people in the form of the John Wilson's and the Tom Jones, the buddy barwick's, the apprentice matters. And the

10:25

David Merrick, David,

10:28

well, others that are involved there, and they're going to help us form a kind of creative resource team. And

10:41

the church there wants to be involved in that way. And so we're going to do some things, we'll have a small office in, in Springfield, and we're going to begin with at least one staff person who will kind of coordinate those activities there.

10:57

Then in St. Louis, we're continuing the training of people because, as we'll see in just a moment, and again, with the emphasis on strategy, and people, it, it really requires an awful lot of people. And

again, with the emphasis on strategy, and people, it, it really requires an awful lot of people. And

11:17

as a way to get to those people, we are forming and stainless ship has taken a great lead and be in assuming responsibility for part of the recruiting and the and the training of these people. And some really significant things have happened there just since the first of the year, in terms of, of what's done in these training sessions. I think that that is probably one of the really unique forms of ministry, available in the whole world today. That is evolved right there. There aren't many places where one can be exposed to, first of all, just in depth study of the Word

12:03

all morning, in a group, and then to break and to spend three hours every afternoon without ciders.

12:15

And that's one of the things that has changed just a bit from the inception of that work to where it is right now. And that is that, that I think this is true and our personal lives. And it's true of any one who deals with evangelism. The hardest. And sometimes last thing that we do is get to the outsider.

12:39

That is, I don't know just I don't know what Satan isn't really behind that.

12:45

That no matter how great our dreams are, and how good our intentions are, you know how easy it is to get through a day without substantive contact with an outsider. And at some point, more than just relationship and but in actual teaching the outsider. And as a result of that,

13:09

they kind of have just rule has been laid down, that the people who are voluntarily that word has to be underscored, who are voluntarily who have voluntarily accepted this discipline, that between the hours of two and five they are absolutely forbidden to be with and speak to insiders.

13:36

They can't do it on the telephone. Can't minister to him, can't do anything with them. They must be with the outsider.

13:47

That is it. And again, to just repeat that, as we all know, is the most difficult thing in the world. Because there are so many calls so many legitimate needs. And so many things that get us and take us away from the outsider. I don't know if you could really believe this or appreciation, appreciate it fully, but as geared to the outsider as heartbeat has been in is it is still the thing that we have to pray most of them and be doggedly insistent upon most of all, and that is to be sure that the bottom line is the outsiders, time with the outsiders, personal time with the outsiders.

14:34

That comes in a variety of experiences in LA about a week ago a little over a week ago. And on the way to the airport we've done by the air by the library and had done a bit of research on where the s la bombing shootout occurred

14:54

in the general Inglewood, Inglewood vicinity in Los Angeles.

15:01

And we secured the address and then made our way over to that site. It's now of course, just a vacant lot. But on the way, just on the way to that scene, round that occur. Here is an absolute barrage of police cars squad cars, converging on one site, sirens blaring, red lights flashing people running. And all of them screeching to a halt, just like on TV.

15:35

And here it is, and it's, it's a stunning kind of thing to be going along larking along and on all of a sudden, here is this dread reality, it's being played out in full drama.

15:50

And the officers jumping out of the cars and down crawling very rapidly across the streets headed toward a house and, and then the crowds that that immediately formed. And I got out and just just stood around among the crowd, and then listened.

16:14

And that

16:15

.....

it's it is it is a transforming experience.

16:21

The realities of the world.

16:26

The degree to which we can be removed

16:31

from where

16:33

the kingdom of God

16:36

may either thrive, or the whole thing just be diluted. Those are some of and this is not just an edge or a fringe of society. There are millions who live in these places. And just talking and interviewing people, neighbors around this particular site

16:58

of the shootout. You know, what? The little children all the way up through high school?

17:06

You know what their first question was, without exception.

17:12

And I mean, in a period of maybe an hour to an hour and a half.

17:16

Every single young person with whom I taught their first question, was you policeman?

17:26

Can you imagine life where the stranger appears? And it's automatic, must be a policeman?

17:37

When I would say no, they would say school principal.

17:45

To questions just over and over and over now.

17:50

And then to just wonder, Is there is there a way to say,

17:57

with all the reality that God has imparted to our lives to some of these people?

18:05

We love you.

18:09

And, you know, there wasn't any way

18:14

there was no way

18:16

tried.

18:18

But there was no way

18:20

the installation was too great.

18:25

The sheer,

18:28

hard, crusted skin that comes from surviving,

18:34

could not be penetrated.

18:37

And well, that's enough. But But you see,

18:42

to, to get to those people. That's what that's what this thing is really all about. It's to get to those people. It's not simply to get the people who are like we are but yet people who are strangers to us at this point. But But these enormous segments of society can be gotten to only with continued sustained, repeated tiny messages that try to get to where they are. Day in and day out. Week in and week out. month in and month out. They just have to keep going.

19:27

And so it's it's that that is that is where the thing is headed. It is to get to not only the people who are like it's like the roots presentation.

19:41

How many people struggled with

19:46

struggle.

19:49

How many people tended to just you have to rationalize

19:56

particularly the opening statements. It just helps

20:00

In that,

20:02

but do you know what the truth is?

20:06

The truth is, that has never stopped.

20:12

That's still going on.

20:15

Now, the principles and the colors have changed sometimes. But that kind of callousness.

20:25

That kind of view of humanity. That is not something that lies in the distant past of this nation. It is still here. That's still real.

20:37

And some of us experienced it just in the last month, right here in Abilene, Texas.

20:47

Transcript of the interview with Governor Greg Abbott on 10/10/2020

Two realities, that we're as far removed from one another in this town, as we are or can see ourselves removed from what was played out through over eight nights in the routes presentation, right here in amble.

21:05

But the problem you see is still getting to the outside, it's still breaking through to that outside and, and the pressures are very great to keep us on the inside. And all of this began at the point of the of the training program in St. Louis, that, that a ret a rigorous discipline has just had to be imposed on those involved in the program. Now, to continue that just a moment.

21:34

We had thought that our intern program would be expanded to various cities this year, for example, maybe on the west coast, the East Coast and different places, new intern groups might arise. But we've abandoned that for now. And the reason is what we've learned in that experience up there. And secondly, we are not able to repeat that easily in another city. We need to go on there keep the pressure there for another year. Until we learn more of the dynamics of really what we're talking about. We're talking about people who are going to be involved in frontline evangelism.

22:16

Because more and more it is clear that that is going to require a special kind of training.

22:24

And that shouldn't be

22:27

it shouldn't be awkward, and strange to us really, but but sometimes it is, in the New Testament, there is pretty clear evidence for a kind of front line event, the kind of penetration that greatly shaped the lifestyles and the messages of those who were involved in that kind of evangelism. And today, to achieve the objective, and the goal that was achieved, in those early days of Christianity, we're going to have to increase our efforts in that direction, to do hard training,

23:09

the in times of real war, the there there are special troops that are trained for special activities, there is a common training for all the troops and then there are sometimes special missions, and those who are enrolled in military service. Their lifestyle is affected their their relationship to things their relationship to the world. This is an affected relationship. And it is it is what we are giving our lives to

and the direction in which we are giving our lives that will then dictate and form the kind of lifestyle that we're able to have as a result. And again, nobody being pressed into that. But it's the Lord works only with volunteers.

23:56

He works only with volunteers, the Lord is the greatest one in all of history. So far is working with volunteers and knowing how to work with volunteers.

24:07

That is awfully hard.

24:10

And the history is not very good, really about volunteer work. But Jesus really was a winner. His is still going we're still volunteering today. And so it is a it is a rigorous training, some real

24:27

training and discipline that that is designed for combat.

24:34

Because do you know that we

24:38

we really are in war

24:43

we're really in war. Now what occurs in the barracks, that's not war.

24:51

That's a fuss.

24:54

And that's a little distinction that sometimes is missed. In the church we confuse

And that's a little distinction that sometimes is missed. In the church we confuse

25:00

as are our buses in the barracks,

25:03

which we're pretty good at sometimes with the war.

25:09

And there never was a better cure for the fast in the barracks than a good battle.

25:18

A good battle just has a way of setting priorities, rearranging priorities. And, and so part of part of the thrust is just to get closer to where the battle is being fought.

25:33

And I think a lot of us are tired. We are tired of people who are unprepared people who do not know God

25:44

carrying the banner. So the front lines, I don't care what the issue is. I don't care if the issue is racism, I don't care if the issue is abortion. I don't care if the issue is religion and political life. I don't care if it's a matter of religion and science. You know, the ones who ought to speak most powerfully to those questions that in turn, affect and shape the life of people all over the nation and all over the world ought to be those who see God most clearly.

26:20

They ought to know those issues the best.

26:25

And those issues ought to be formed not simply for the ears of those on the inside, but but but laying down the challenge toward the powers that be

26:38

when there is there is such a difference between getting bloodied by an insider and getting bloodied by an outsider.

26:48

Bloody getting bloodied up and bludgeoned by an insider.

26:54

It's frustrating.

26:57

But getting bloodied up and bludgeoned by an outsider is invigorating. It's exciting. I mean, it hurts but it's exciting, just exciting. And there is a risk, there's a terrible risk involved, when we would attempt to do that. And we're not suggesting by any stretch of the imagination, that we're anywhere near doing that. Don't anybody get excited, because we got to, we got a Herculean distance to go. But we're trying to look in that direction. And, and to do that, you see, then suddenly, every scientist who is a Christian, becomes very, very crucial.

27:48

And every psychologist who is a Christian, becomes very, very crucial.

27:57

And every professor

28:00

becomes crucial.

28:02

And every mother and every father become crucial. And every son and every daughter, it's crucial.

28:14

They are not crucial, as long as,

28:19

as we are not facing the powers of the world, that are most damaging, and most devastating.

28:27

They are not crucial, as long as we are simply imparting information to an assembled group of students in order that they might get a grade in order that they might be able to get make a living in this society.

28:40

That is Colonel that is ungodly. That is not Christian. It is not Christian education. It is not church education. It is not biblical.

28:55

It is not related to Christ.

28:59

We are in this world, to shine as lights in darkness.

29:06

And our professions are the channels they are the vehicles that carry us to the place where the battle is made. And, and if we can expand our view of of what

29:22

I mean evangelism

29:25

is yes, it is sitting down and persuading and convincing another person to become a Christian.

29:32

But Paul was conscious of a kind of evangelism.

29:36

Stated in words like these, we wrestle not against flesh and blood,

29:42

but against principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in heavenly places.

29:50

It's a It's, he had a pretty grand view of what it's really about. And so we're digressing just a little bit from

30:00

Maybe men yet we're not either because this, this is at the heart, this is the dynamic, the core. That is that is giving this ministry some real impetus. But to get back to the over overview for a moment,

30:18

it will there be a bill or,

30:21

okay, two bills

30:31

now, so that beginning from the inside, and then we'll just kind of go in that direction, you've got kind of the inner office, where things are being churned out, then you're gonna have some pods of offices and people in other parts of the nation like the Houston Springfield, St. Louis, the New York and, and then third, that the people who are trained who are being who are accepting the discipline of real training, and we've had 13 paths this past year, they'll complete their first nine months in June. And, and then this, this fall, we're going to put out the call for 30 or 40 additional people, and divide those into three teams, that in which they will all come together and their basic studying curriculum in the mornings will be together, but then they will be going into various parts of the city, and kind of alongside various, at least three congregations in St. Louis. Their work will be directed then by people who are currently in the program this year, and who have demonstrated the kind of maturity and leadership that kind of qualifies them to, to help to, to guide and to superintend the work of the new ones that are coming in, so that that by the by this time in next June, or June, a year from now, I always forget where they were in the spring or the fall.

32:06

Spring, okay, that by June, a year, from this June,

32:12

we hope to have maybe at least 40, who have been through that, and then we're hoping that these people then can become

32:20

a nucleus in other parts of the country where similar things can grow up. Now, the next phase beyond that really gets into this volunteer phase. And that is that the objective, one of our objectives is that within 12 hours of contact with an outsider, we could mechanically, we could have the capability of having a person at their door.

32:48

Now, we've labored for years,

32:54

believing that that mass media cannot be personal.

33:00

If it isn't, we need to find another means.

33:04

Because we cannot afford that kind of outreach, that is impersonal.

33:10

We just can't

33:13

I do not believe for a second that that mass media must be impersonal.

33:21

33:21

I think that that we've tended to leave it there too much. But it's just a matter of finding a way to make it personal.

33:31

And what what what sometimes stymies a cultural view, or the world where they stop doesn't have to be where we stop.

33:45

The world can sometimes stop at mountains. But when we get to the mountain, we just move it.

33:54

And the Egyptian army had quite a lot of difficulty with the Red Sea.

34:01

But Israel didn't have any difficulty.

34:04

Simple was a snap.

34:07

You just have to know who your leader is.

34:11

And if God is our leader, then we have this marvelous tool that has been raised up in our generation.

34:19

And we should not allow the world to dictate every single way that we're going to use that medium.

34:27

We need to take advantage of the sons of darkness where their wisdom is, but then we need to go higher. And we need to go further and do with it. What's never been done with it before.

34:40

God is always doing a new thing in our midst. And he can do a new thing. I don't think that the the experts in mass communication, frankly, have done a very good job.

34:52

When you consider the manipulation, the exploitation, the violence, the kind of values and everything else that's going out Oh,

35:00

Right, I just don't think that we ought to take a backseat to them for a second.

35:06

It's been a terribly abused and a terribly violated tool.

35:11

And, and there might be a tiny band of people, and that's all God has ever needed, was just a tiny, tiny band

35:22

that that might go in a different direction. So that when when the history is written of mass media, by God,

35:34

he may not write about just Archie,

35:39

that may not be the big thing.

35:42

I mean, now bunker can be funny.

35:44

But that may not be the big thing, the big thing may be

35:48

the way a group of little people,

35:52

unknowns, sometimes ridiculed,

35:57

considered base, and ignorant.

36:03

whose existence might at times not even be recognized?

36:09

That may be

36:11

the history that God writes.

36:15

It certainly wouldn't be surprising.

36:17

Knowing what we know about God.

36:21

And so if we can. if we can use that capability now that means that they're going to have to be a lot

of people stretched out over a lot of places, but then we've got a lot of people.

36:33

And

36:34

two, that's three.

36:38

And and, well, this gives you some some additional incentive, maybe just by I think probably there's nothing new in this but simply a restatement this morning. But to run ahead in a sentence.

36:54

Maybe in a decade,

36:57

maybe we can look out over a nation.

37:01

And maybe there will be people that God has raised up

37:05

in every state, maybe in every city,

37:09

maybe an every town

37:13

whose business it is to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God,

37:21

to those that are in darkness.

37:24

And it's exciting, to think about it, to work in it. And to be a part of this fellowship. That has been such a tremendous encouragement for.

37:39

Saints to me, the only proper response to this vision is prayer.

37:45

Father, we're just so grateful this morning that we as your people can share your love with the world that

37:54

is dark and dank. And without love.

38:01

Father, we're grateful for land and for what he has met for this congregation through these years.

38:09

We're grateful that we've been able in various ways to share this vision in this ministry with them.

38:17

Father, we pray that

38:20

we will continue to walk hand in hand with him in the ways that are possible.

38:30

We ask your blessing upon all these plans, we pray that you will give them your power and your spirit

to materialize them. We know that's within your power. And we have confidence in you and in your servants. Father, we ask your blessing today and this most specific way on the heartbeat, challenge and idea

39:02

and especially that it's seeking to reach in where your good news is unknown. That's we ask in Christ's name, Amen.