

Finding Your PLACE in Ministry – Connecting Passion – November 11, 2018

SLIDE 1 - On Friday night, Mary, Rachel & I went to see the U of M Gopher Women Basketball team take on New Hampshire at Williams Arena. But, who we really went to see was Lindsey Whalen in her debut as head Women's BB Coach. We have followed LW through her playing career in High School, College and in the pros with the Lynx. Now, that girl played with passion...In an interview this week she declared that her skills weren't the greatest but she played hard, she played with passion...came from the inside.

SLIDE 2 – We have been looking at the PLACE process these past 3 weeks as we discover how God has made and gifted each of us uniquely through our personality, spiritual gifts, and our abilities or optimal serving environments. Today, we want to connect our passion with ministry for God and others.

SLIDE 3 – What is passion? Where does it come from? The dictionary defines passion as a powerful emotion or intense feeling (feeling strongly about something). Like Lindsey Whalen, our passion comes from the inside. It is from the _____ that our passion is derived.

SLIDE 4 – It is from the heart that our passion is derived.

Proverbs 27:19 – “As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects a man.”

Proverbs 4:23 – “Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.”

SLIDE 5 – Martin Luther King, Jr. was passionate about the Civil Rights movement. His I have a Dream speech is filled with that passion. Some people are passionate about a hobby, and spend all of their time, energy and money on it.

But, for us as Christians, there is a more important source for passion, and that is from Christ himself. His presence on earth is because of his passion and love for sinful mankind. His passion led to the Passion...So, let's look at the compassion of our Lord and Savior as a model for our own...

SLIDE 6 – Jesus was passionate about people.

Matthew 9:36 – “When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (ESV)

The Message – “When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd.”

SLIDE 7 – **What Was Jesus Passionate About?**

1) Jesus was passionate about people!

All kinds of people – rich (Zacchaeus), poor (Widow), Jew (Nicodemus), Gentile (Samaritan woman), old or young.

Mark 10:14 – “Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

SLIDE 8 – 2) Jesus was passionate about serving people!

Matt. 20:28 – “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

His First miracle was done at the request of His mother Mary at a wedding in the small village of Cana of Galilee, where He turned water into wine so the bride and groom wouldn't be embarrassed because they had run out of wine.

His last act of humility was to serve his disciples by washing their feet before they shared the Last Supper together.

3) Jesus was passionate about teaching people

Rabbi – with the learned
Teacher - parables

SLIDE 9 – 4) Jesus was passionate about meeting the needs of people!

Feeding of the 5,000
Peter and the fish
Breakfast for his disciples

5) Jesus was passionate about healing people!

SLIDE 10 – Jesus was passionate about people, all kinds of people, and as His disciples we should be as well. It's okay to be excited about other things from time to time but we must remember that our primary focus should be on people. About meeting their physical and spiritual needs.

SLIDE 11 –

What draws us towards certain people groups?

- 1) Age – college student may choose to work with youth because of age, or seniors because of a relationship with a grandparent.
- 2) Life Experiences – Someone who has lost a child may likely have motivation to minister to those who experience this loss.
- 3) Common Experiences – passionate with those with similar life situations.
- 4) Training – Those with specialized training for a people group may be passionate because of their training.

SLIDE 12 – **DO SOMETHING!**

There's a song by Matthew West entitled "Do Something," in which he challenges us to stop complaining about our lives or what we see in the world, and do something about it.

He sings: Saw a world full of trouble now, people living in poverty, children sold into slavery the thought disgusted me. How'd we ever get so far down, and how's it ever gonna turn around?

So, I shook my fist at heaven and said, "God, why don't you do something?" He said, "I did, yeah, I created you."

Jesus lived passionately and as His disciples so should we.