

THE CHURCH OF IRRESISTIBLE INFLUENCE

INTRODUCTION

Discuss the recent documentary – Mogale – A City at War (the Strong One). We as residents of Krugersdorp, Roodepoort and the surrounding areas will be impacted by the decay in Mogale. But God has placed us here for a reason! How can we be a church of “Irresistible Influence” in this setting?

MESSAGE

WE ARE SENT

Luke 10:1-2 (NLT) The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. 2 These were his instructions to them: “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.

Jesus chose 72 (some Bibles say 70) disciples and sent them out 2 by 2. He made these statements:

- “The harvest is great, but the workers are few.”
- “Pray and ask the Lord to send more harvesters.”

By applying this scripture to the world we live in today, who do you think Jesus would be speaking to? (answer: us, His disciples, He is sending us, but we must also pray for more harvesters).

WE MUST GO PREPARED

Luke 10:1-4 (NLT) Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves.⁴ Don’t take any money with you, nor a traveler’s bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don’t stop to greet anyone on the road.

- This sounds like life as we know it today!
- Why? – we go as lambs among wolves...
- If we go into the areas God wants us to minister in, we better be careful, fancy cell phones, handbags, cash etc. just make us targets for criminals.
- Don’t be fooled – not everyone is our friend when we are on the battlefield.
- We must go out, prayed up and prepared.

WHAT ARE WE CALLED TO DO?

Luke 10:8-9 (NLT) "If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. 9 Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.'

Jesus told them to heal the sick and tell them about His Kingdom (lead them to Him). We can do this in our homes, workplaces and on the streets. Where else are there opportunities?

Luke 10:16(NLT) Then he said to the disciples, "Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me."

THE RESULTS

Luke 10:17(NLT) When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!" 18 "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! 19 Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. 20 But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."

Demons are cast out and people are healed when we go out boldly in Jesus name.

Some of our people have tested this and found it to be true.

Ask Mr. Mac who Glenn is bringing to share his testimony.

IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT EVANGELISM!

Being a church of irresistible influence is not only about evangelism, it's about love, compassion and mercy!

Luke 10:25-29(NLT) One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" 27 The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" 28 "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

- Our problem normally lies with the 2nd part of the great commandment: **"Love your neighbour as yourself"**.

This statement "Love your neighbour as yourself" aligns with our desire to be a church of Irresistible Influence. Who all should the efforts of our ministry be aimed at?

Let's look at the Parable of the Good Samaritan:

Luke 10:29-35 (NLT) The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. 31 "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. 32 A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. 33 "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. 34 Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. 35 The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

Discuss this parable:

- What would happen if we were walking or driving down the road?
- Who would we respond like, the priest, the temple assistant or the Samaritan?
- Discuss how far the Samaritan went to be a good neighbour.

Ask Melodie van Braakel to come and share:

CONCLUSION

To be a church of Irresistible Influence, we need to have 3 things:

- Love
- Compassion
- Mercy

Luke 10:36-37 (NLT) "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbour to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. 37

The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

- Discuss how we, in the world we live in can be good Samaritans.

Do we have an option to say no to this call?

In the days of Esther and her uncle Mordecai, evil Haman developed a plot to kill all the Jews. Something had to be done! Just like the attacked and beaten man on the road in the Good Samaritan parable, something had to be done, He couldn't just be left there!

Esther 4:13-14 (NLT) Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. 14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

- ***Do you think we can leave the status quo as is in our city?***
- ***Maybe we think it doesn't affect us, we don't live near where the problems are.***
- ***The drugs are already in our schools? Some of us may even have family members or friends hooked on drugs...***
- ***What happens when our daughter or grand-daughter gets abducted and sold to human traffickers?***
- ***Who can say if these criminals won't want to expand their business into the suburbs.***
- ***Do we still think there is no impact on us?***

Let's stand up like Esther did – She was born for a time like that and we were born for a time such as this!