

Voice in the Wilderness (podcast)

Episode Two (2) outline

- Intro
 - Welcome & reason for the podcast
 - The days are short.
 - Need for repentance within the Ada church.
 - Unflinching exploration of how the Ada church does ministry.
 - Adopting intentional, one-on-one discipleship
 - Start seasons of disciple and disciple-maker faith building.
 - Rinse and repeat as the disciple becomes a disciple-maker.
 - This is the model Christ gave us.
- Today's subject – Lack of Knowledge
 - God's people suffer in life, not because they don't pray enough or love God enough, but because they lack accurate and adequate knowledge of the Word. To put it more plainly, and maybe even harsher...when people lack accurate and relevant spiritual information from God's Word, they experience defeat and failure. Again, this isn't because they're "weak" Christians or because God couldn't deliver them; it's just the plain and inevitable result of biblical ignorance.
 - The word "education" is susceptible to varied interpretations, some skewed toward socialization in a certain way and others oriented toward knowledge of a particular body of facts, concepts, or ideas. Basically, there are a lot of options out there, but the Bible tells Israel, and us, in these following verses what is solely to be at the root of education:
 - 2 Sam. 22:31 **"This God – His way is perfect: the Word of the Lord proves true (is flawless)."**
 - So, don't we want the best when we are learning, especially for our children? We are shown that God's Word is the standard of conduct and thought. Jesus enforced this in Matthew 4:4: **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."**
 - 'Bread alone' is understood to mean all that is necessary from natural sources to sustain life. But Jesus is saying that that is insufficient for true life. One also needs supernatural food (specifically, revelation of truth from His Word) to have the real-life God intended for man. However, it is this same supernatural food that is despised and rejected by fallen men.
 - So, what do the results of scriptural ignorance look like? **Hosea 4: 1-6 "Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and**

bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore, the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away.

Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest. You shall stumble by day; the prophet also shall stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

- Does that first part sound like what is going on in Ada? We’re a small community with some apparent “wrath of God” things going on. Just a quick survey on social media and you’d find an example of each of these things, even in the church. So many of these people going head-to-head seem to be espousing some level of faith in Jesus.
 - So what are people believing in Ada now. “Karma is a *****. Our Creator will see to it you pay for your lack of compassion. If it doesn’t disperse to them, it will disperse to their loved ones. You don’t get to be ugly and not have any consequences.”
- What does that say? **Is that part of the “controversy” God might have with us?**
 - This verse was originally written to Israelites, who had a common heritage. They supposedly had some level of unity, a shared worldview, but it had devolved into all these terrible things happening among themselves.
- Then God reveals what is at the heart of this breakdown. It’s a lack of knowledge. And not just any knowledge, but the Law of God. And the little bit they may have remembered, they’re rejecting it.
- Since they are forgetting God, God starts talking about forgetting not just them, but their children, too.
 - And aren’t we forgetting our children, too? Yes, we’re sending them to VBS and maybe church camp. But are we discipling them the other 50 weeks of the year? Are we raising them to be knowledgeable in a Biblical worldview sorta way?
- **“Hey, it’s not the kids fault and I’m just doing what my parents did.”** I’m willing to agree with you. Maybe this way of “doing church” that we’ve inherited is a good part of the problem. Maybe we need to rethink the way some things are done, what our priorities are.
 - Are we trying to entertain too much?
 - Are we elevating non-essential traditions/teachings to a level where it is detracting from the main message of Christ-empowered Repentance, Salvation, and Sanctification? What

are your intentions of promoting it, if it doesn't revolve one or more of these essentials?

- I'll say some buzzwords: "Come as you are", the Rapture, Worship Music, egg hunt, potluck. Any of these fighting words for you, where you'll come to blows with a fellow believer in support of them?
 - These are not bad things in themselves, but when they are your main go-to subjects instead of being well-rounded scripturally in the Fruit of the Spirit, there is a disconnect. You may very well have created an "idol"
- But, hey, at whose standards is it labelled "failure"? What some people label a "fail", is it actually a "learning experience"? The world is full of imperfect people who learn every day. Could it be that God does not see it as a fail?
 - There needs to be a little nuance with this. When a person brings this up, is it actually a way to distract from the greater issue? Are they playing instead at the "do not judge" game?
 - It all depends on if the person is actively trying to be more Christ-like. If not, then the "failure" is just cause and effect, but isn't revealing the greater truth and helping to grow the fruit of the Spirit.
 - The only way to know for sure is to study what the Bible reveals about it, and don't rely on what your pastor says. Figure it out for yourself! Don't be lazy!
 - And church leaders, teach your flock how to study the Bible for themselves! Encourage them and instruct them. Feed their curiosity!
 - If you find yourself at a church that has a deer-in-the-headlights response to you taking ownership of your own spiritual growth, worried at what you might find, run away from that church!
- Ending
 - Christians, stop living in ignorance! The community is paying the price (being destroyed) for your cheap belief, lack of knowledge. Don't keep this cycle of biblical obliviousness going!
 - Prayer for the Ada Church to be intentional with Repentance, Salvation, & Sanctification.
 - Thanks for listening...and responding to this call of action.
 - Say "**Matthew 9:38**"