Stories of Redemption

Dirke & Lorna Johnson

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We are helping a new generation who do not know Jesus to connect with Him. We motivate and train Christians to make those redemptive connections happen. Below is a redemptive story that Dirke preached two weeks ago in our church. We've included several redemptive connections being made through Cru around the world.

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ² A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." ³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. ⁴ Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." – Matthew 8:1-4

In the redemptive story above, four principles emerge that reflects how God redeems those areas in our lives where He wants us to experience His redemptive touch:

- 1. We cannot fix Ourselves (v. 2) He says, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." He acknowledges he can't fix himself. Just as we can't fix ourselves! What isn't right can't be fixed from within. Our fulfillment and satisfaction comes from the Lord alone and not in our own human efforts!
- 2. **Acknowledge our felt need.** He kneels before Jesus (he was ceremonially unclean) he had been in relational, emotional and spiritual isolation. His felt need for cleanness is greater than the fear of what others might think. He verbalized his need.
- 3. **Jesus became unclean so we can be clean (v.3).** Jesus could have healed with a word, but instead he touched the leper which made Jesus unclean at the very moment that He made the leper "clean." In the same way, Jesus took our uncleanness (our sin) and paid for it on the cross and in exchange gave us His cleanness (righteousness). *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.-2Cor. 5:21*
- **4. Redemptive healing is lived in community w/God's people (v.4).** Jesus knew it wasn't just physical healing of the leper needed. 1st century lepers might go decades with no human touch. When Jesus touched the leper his body experienced physical redemption and healing. Jesus instructs the leper according to Mosaic law in Leviticus 14 to go to the Priest because true cleansing and fellowship with God is to be lived out in community with God's people.

To listen to Dirke's message go to: http://www.questpc.org/listen/ and click on October 21st message titled "Redemption."



The Lenses Institute

To help our staff effectively carry the message of redemption across cultures, Lorna helps facilitate a week-long intensive cross-cultural training experience for Cru staff called the Lenses Institute. The group at left was in Lexington, KY, Oct. 16-20th In November she will help lead another one in Orlando, FL.

Redemption That's Not an Illusion

Maggie sat in the front row at the "Maze," a world-class evangelistic illusion show sponsored by Cru on her campus. She teared up, wondering, "Does God really love me enough to send His Son to die for me?"

For weeks after the event, Maggie sought answers to her questions. She finally became convinced and received Christ.

Maggie now serves as an intern with Cru. This year, she was on a team inviting students to a Maze event, one of the major evangelistic initiatives of the campus ministry. Of the 750 who attended, 80 made decisions for Christ.

FAMILY & MINISTRY PRAYERS & PRAISES

- Dirke's mother passed on Sept. 5th. We've included info on it
- Lorna is growing her mentors and tutors who will be ministering with her in the Academy. Keep praying!
- Dirke finishes teaching his Missions class in November.
- Danelle's family and Briana will be with us at Thanksgiving.
- Thank you for your faithful prayers and generosity!

Follow the Leader

The Cru staff members and student leaders had great hopes for this village showing. God had been moving miraculously in recent *JESUS* film screenings. When it came time to invite people to follow Jesus, the film team had consistently seen many respond to the story of the gospel. But this time, hesitancy dropped like a blanket over the crowd, even though everyone stayed until the very end. The team members stared at each other, uneasy and discouraged.

Then, a well-dressed gentleman rose and walked toward the front. The team had learned earlier that this was the village chief. He said, "I want to follow this man you call Jesus."

Immediately, two other respected members of the community followed, and within weeks these three men along with Cru student leaders founded a local church.

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