

Building A Movement, Not a Monument: Session 2

By Tim Timmons

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This makes me feel like I'm kind of droopy, you know, just gonna okay, but it picks up, and that's the main thing. I prayed about you guys last night because I was hoping more would show up. We had four here. Yes. Yesterday we just kind of sat around, drank coffee and had a raffle. Wonderful time. I knew the raffle would bring more people out. Today we're giving away Air California tickets, round trip. And those who are the quietest have the best notes and pass the exam at the end. We'll get that. Okay.

Yesterday, just to go quickly over a couple of things I think might help you. We went after three needs. Forget all this stuff over here. But we went after three needs that people have in our culture. We're talking about how to build a movement and not a monument. My conviction in Ministry is that most churches and most ministries are monuments. Monuments are dead, all right? Maybe alive to one another, but dead toward the world. And we get so nervous about the world and worldliness that I think we run away from the people we're trying to reach. And if Jesus had done that, nobody would have gotten it. All right. He got criticized mainly for one thing. What was his main criticism? What was the main criticism of Jesus?

Yeah, too much with the world, with people who smelled funny, with people who drank. All right. People played cards there in the bar. He got criticized for that. Now, what do people most get praised for in evangelical Christianity? What do people most get praised for? Their separation from their cleanliness. Okay. They got this cleanliness. Yuck. I want to be criticized for what Jesus was criticized for.

And then I know I'm winning, okay. And I get plenty of that. So what we're doing in this session yesterday, today, Thursday, Friday is we're talking about, and we do it very informally, we're talking about how do we build a Ministry that relates to people? Yesterday, I dealt with culture. Today I'm going to deal with leadership. Thursday, I'm going to deal with doctrine. Okay. And I'm hoping to blow a lot of minds with that. And then Friday, we're going to deal with the strategy. How do you put it all together? Okay. Yesterday was culture, and I'm saying that our culture has three basic needs. They have fear, anger, and guilt. Or you can put it a little differently.

They have a problem in the area of inadequacy. They feel inadequate. They don't feel worthwhile. They have a problem in the area of intimacy. Okay. This is just for you, preachers. You got three eyes, and they got a problem in the area of identity. They have a problem in the area of identity. Okay. And that's our culture.

Today, I thought I'd add a little bit to that by dealing with our culture, but dealing with it from a leadership standpoint. And then I want to share some war stories, okay. This isn't good for tapes and all that, but since they're doing it. But I'm not doing this for tapes. I'm just doing it for you.

And if you pick up on it, praise the Lord. I was here, what, three years ago? What year are you, Bill? You're a senior. Was I here when you were here still? Oh, great. He doesn't remember. Five years ago. Is that right? Are you a five year student? Six year student, certainly. Great. Well, I was here five years ago, and when I was here five years ago, that's good, because I'm going to speak today on what I spoke on, then tomorrow, I mean, this next hour. And when I was here, there were three guys that came out of that group that I spoke to. I spoke to the gym a couple of times and spoken a little session like this.

The three guys came out of this session where I shared something like what I'm doing now a little differently, but they came out and really got turned on with Ministry. And these three guys are going to do something fantastic out in the world. I mean, absolutely gangbusters. And I'm so excited, I can hardly stand. So hopefully one of you will stumble into one of these things, too. Okay. I'm inviting you to be a radical. That's really what I'm doing. Okay. Because radicals are the only people that really get a lot of things done.

Now I want to share some war stories after I give you this leadership idea. Leadership. We need leadership that's willing to do something different, that's willing to do something fresh. Francis Schaeffer said something that turned me on. He does a lot of things to turn me on. But one thing he said that really got me excited was he said that every generation needs to have our theology rewritten. Every generation needs to have our theology in a rewritten form. Now, a lot of people will argue with that. I'm sure even a lot of the speakers that you're hearing this week would argue with that. And they say that's ridiculous. Theology is theology. God has always been God. Jesus has always been Jesus. The Bible has always been the same. So let's not rewrite it.

The problem with that thinking is that they think it's great for their generation. But hang the next one. Hang the next one. Every generation has its terminology. Every generation has its leadership. Every generation has a little different kind of need, and we must rearticulate the gospel into our generation. Next hour in the gymnasium, I'll be sharing

why I believe it's true about the gospel. But let me just say it's true about all of Christianity that everybody needs to have a different little deal. I just wrote a booklet that will be used for evangelism. Okay.

And basically, it will be used for evangelism in our community in Newport Beach area because it's right for that audience. It is fine tuned for that audience because 80% of our people in our Church, and we have somewhere around 4000 to 5000 people floating in and out, 80% of those people are in sales. They're living from deal to deal. They don't know what nine to five means. They live from deal to deal. And so when they plan their giving, they plan on a deal coming through. And some people give whole condominiums or whole homes or whole deals to the Church. It's incredible. These are deal people.

I love these people. They're deal to deal. So I spoke on a specially when a deal comes through, I like them. But I spoke on a message on a series called Christianity Is Very Jewish. And when I was moving through that series, I get a message on such a deal, okay. Such a deal. We have a lot of Jewish people in our area, too. And so such a deal. And I spoke and I went through all the covenants, Abrahamic, the Palestinian, the Davidic, and the new Covenant. Okay? As I moved through all these covenants, I talked about each of these. I didn't call them covenants. How many of you have made a Covenant lately? Only Christians make covenants. What a crazy word.

It's a wonderful word for back then. But what is it in our culture? Well, in my culture down there where I live with down and dirty people, we call it deals. And so I went through God made a deal with Abraham, and then there was the Palestinian deal, and then there was the New Deal coming up. Not to be confused with the old New Deal, but this was the New deal, all right?

It was a deal. And God made these deals with all these people. And he's big on his deals. Hey, but God's got a deal for you. Such a deal. Here's the deal. God pays everything. You pay nothing. You get God, he gets you. Such a deal. It's not fair for God at all. We get such a deal. Okay? Now that little booklet I've written that will be printed soon, that little booklet is going to be very effective in the business community. It's going to be very effective in our area. Okay. If I were to take it back to Blanchester, Ohio, where I'm from, I don't think it would go over very well because different cultures need different kinds of articulation. That's why in our world, many of the ethnic groups have been screaming at us, normal vanilla Christians out here saying, hey, we need the gospel articulated into our culture. It's true. The problem is we who have been so smug with learning the gospel and learning the word, we think, hey, it's good enough for me. It's good enough for everybody. It's not true. It's not true. Not unless they can understand it. Okay.

So this morning I'm going to go after leadership, and I want to talk about that. We need leaders who are willing to be leaders and to step out and actually relate to people. Let me show you. There's one basic question that everybody asks. This is good for sales, too, if you guys are in sales I made a lot of money on this when I was in professional speaking, this little diagram, there are some people out there who I used to be wealthy till I went into the pastorate. And now I'm back with the rest of the guys. But I used to get \$3,000 for 1 hour plus expenses just to tell this little story right here. You guys are getting for nothing. It's this exciting. Why? There's one question everybody asks when they walk into the room. Okay, one question. If you're selling something, if you're speaking on something, I don't care if the kids won first grade or if he's in the 80 year old bracket, okay? They're always asking one question. Why should I listen to you? Why should I listen to you? Or if you're in sales, why should I buy from you? Or if you're in management, why should I follow you? Why?

There are three basic sub questions to this. One is, this pen is delightful. One is, Can I trust you? Can I trust you? Can I trust you? Who in the world are you? Can I trust you? Are you a good person? Are you out for you? Out for me? Who are you out for? Can I trust you? Secondly, do you care for me? And thirdly, do you know what you're talking about? Okay. Can I trust you? Do you care for me? Do you know what you're talking about? Three basic sub questions in life. There isn't any other. This is it, baby. I mean, if you want to communicate, this is it. There isn't anything else. Believe me.

Trust me. Can I trust you? Do you care for me? Do you know what you're talking about? Now, yesterday I told the four or five of us that were here that I had seven years of Greek and three and a half years of Hebrew. Okay? Seven years ago, Greek, three and a half years of Hebrew. Now, which would this fall under trust care or no? No, that's right. And this is where we spend most of our time in conferences. This is where we spend most of our time in school. Get this down. You need to know this. Like memorize the phone book. You may need it someday.

Boy, is that relevant. Isn't that about how it is? I mean, I don't want to turn you off, stay in school, stick it out. It's the best we got. But that isn't it. That's only one third of the deal knowledge. What you know. And I tell everybody, I got seven years of Greek, three and a half years of Hebrew, and nobody cares. Nobody's ever come out and said, wow, never. Matter of fact, I find it a liability sometimes when I say it because they get a little nervous about it.

Do you know what you're talking about? Do you care for me? And can I trust you? The three Greek words that go along with this. This is ethos, I did remember something out of my Greek ethos, and this is pathos. And this is?

Thank you. As they say in the south, logos, right? Or logos.

And these three Greek words basically give us the ethical appeal, the emotional appeal, or the logical appeal. This is the best way to persuade people using these three. If you don't use these three, you're only using one or two burners. These are all three burners. All three burners. Okay? Knowing what you're talking about, we understand that caring. You got to show that you care for somebody, that you really care.

People listen when you care. That's it. People listen when you care. I went to a party Sunday night, the birthday party of a secretary's husband. One of my secretary's husband's. Not one of her husband's, but one of my secretary's husband. We have a loose Church, but it's not that loose. We try to keep them together. And it was the 50th birthday party, and we had a ball. We can only be there for part of it, but they brought some people some people were there from another Church that aren't too excited about me.

And as a matter of fact, these people were very hurt because of something that I had done. And they wouldn't even talk to their closest friends, my Secretary about this matter for now, three years. I mean, it's really been a problem. And it was a 50s party, and we played spin the bottle, okay? Now I like to play spin the bottle in the Christian context, of course. And we play it. A bunch of old people sitting around spinning the bottle. It was the craziest thing I've ever seen. And somebody and they kissed me, which was a wonderful experience. And then I went over and I had to spend a bottle, okay? And I didn't know these people weren't excited about me. I didn't realize that. I just kind of oblivious to a lot of things.

And so I just keep moving on in life. And when we walked in the party, I had to come late. And Carol, my wife, and I walked in the party and I saw this guy. Hadn't seen him for three years. And I walked up and said, hey, how are you doing? And he was kind of overwhelmed with that. I didn't realize he was overwhelmed, but I liked the guy. I never did dislike the guy. And so I spun the bottle. And who does it go to but his wife? Right. Now, she's sitting there thinking, this guy is going to kiss me over my dead body, but what's she going to do? And I go over and I play along with this. Now, I went over and I gave her a big kiss and helped her up, and she had to go spin a bottle.

I found out the next day that these people were so overwhelmed with what happened at that party, so overwhelmed that they felt like that when I kissed her, we kissed and made up. Everything was just great now. And they think I'm wonderful now. You know why? Because the first person I met when I walked in that door, I met him and I went and grabbed his hand and said, hey, good to see you. And he thought I cared for him. It's amazing how when people think you care for them, it just opens up worlds of things. Okay.

Ethical appeal. There's a great court letter that says, ugly may, beauty may be only skin deep, but ugly goes clean to the bone. All right? Ugly goes clean to the bone. It goes right down to where you can smell it.

And that's what ethical appeal is all about. Okay? Now, for a leader, a leader has got to be a person that really gets his job done. I use some three M's here. I like three. I like Ms and I's and all this. I use words like this. A leader must be a model. That's what trust is all about. Must be a model. A leader must be a Minister. He's got to be one who's out there ministering to people. And a leader has got to be one who is multiplying what he knows. Multiplying the modeling and the ministering effect. That's the name of the game. Okay.

I got three C's to go along with this to help me get to something, too, and to kind of help you pick up on it, is a leader needs to be the one who's making always choosing right things. He's making good choices. Choosing. He's making decisions. Nobody will follow a person who is unwilling to make decisions.

Tough decisions. Tough decisions. Okay. You know how to find a leader? What's the best way to find a leader? Let's just workshop this for a minute. How do you know when somebody's a leader. Forget what I just said about choosing. How do you find a leader? Yeah, you're going to look around and if there's somebody following him, hey, that's a leader. Good night. There's a leader. We'll look over there. That's a leader. You don't go grab a guy because he's got the cool and say, I am now going to make you a leader because he is not going to work that way.

I used to disciple that way. I used to find guys that I thought were really going to make it. I poured my life into one guy that was Mr. Cool. I mean, this guy was Mr. Cool had it all. And he's a mess today, an absolute mess. And I contributed to that deal. See, I look at that and say, good night. I don't do that anymore. Juan Carlos Ortiz, have you heard of him? You know, what I mean, he's a radical. He's a guy wrote a book, The Disciple and incredible guy. We had him in to speak. He's coming back in next month.

This guy is so unbelievable. He had a discipleship movement there in Argentina, and they decided they had a real problem. They had had elders that they were appointed elders that really weren't elders. They weren't ministering. They weren't leaders. And so they had everybody resigned. Pastors included. Pastors resigned. Elders resigned, Deacons resigned, trustees resigned. Everybody resigned in the Church.

I thought it was a beautiful move, okay? And then what they did is they then asked them to go ahead and Minister, get with it. And then they'd see a guy who had maybe 30, 40 people he's ministering to through a network of discipleships. Oh, here's an elder. Hey, come on over the meeting. Then you find, oh, hey, good. You're a good

pastor. Come on over here. Great. Choosing them because they were one, rather than saying, now you are a leader, now act like one.

That's the toughest way to go. They make choices. They make tough choices. And I'm talking about a radical leader makes tough choices, okay. And doesn't make any difference what the effect is.

I had to make a very difficult decision a few years ago, and I had to make a decision to leave a Church. I'd only been there one year, and, I mean, it was tough. It was not an easy deal at all. I had already resigned about six months before that, and we talked about it and worked it out that I'd stay. And I made a very tough choice about leaving, did not want to start another Church in the area at all.

And then God began to move in a crazy, crazy way that I can't get into at this point. But he began to move in such a way that I knew the only way to deal with this was that when I resigned, I knew that I had to keep my mouth shut and let everybody just shoot. And so I didn't write anything on it. I didn't talk about it. I didn't say anything to anybody.

Anybody came to me, and they talked to me about, why did you leave? I told them, but I did not go publicizing. But everybody else was shooting at Timmons. I was basically the devil and Jonestown man and all this guy. I was a cult leader. Wonderful experience there. But I knew this was going to happen, and I knew the toughest part of it was not talking about it was not going great. Let me tell you my side of the story. That would have been El Dummo, all right? I knew that if it was right, that what I did, that God would prove it out in the long run. He would prove it out. And so then God opened up an incredible movement to start a Church, and people started. I was involved in the deal. And it was wild what happened. So we went from 400 people to over 3700 last week. And it's just incredible in a two year period. But here's what I'm saying. You have to make tough choices sometimes. And when you make those tough choices, you better make sure that you're going to stand by those tough choices. And God, he will bless you in that.

I'm so convinced of that more than ever now because you know what? Before I went through that, I never liked anybody to dislike me. I mean, it really hurt me if I thought anybody had anything against me. I mean, I just die in a pile. I just crawl up and die. I could not stand that. And yet you cannot be a leader and have everybody just be all, hey, man, this guy is Mr. Cool. You can't do that. You're going to make tough choices.

The second thing is you've got to be a person who's caring, who's really reaching out to people and caring, no matter what their background is, no matter what kind of sin they're involved in right now, no matter what's going on in their

life, you've got to care. And you may have to care enough to say, I'm going to kick your bottom and kick you out of the Church. See, that's another move. But it's still caring. It's not because you want to keep the Church Holy. It's because you want to help that person. I'm going to kick your bottom. That's his French for bottom. I'm going to kick your bottom because I love you. That's why. Okay.

I'm going to give you a lot of war stories. In the moment of all this, you got to care. Caring after confront. That's a great book. By Augsburg, by the way, if you underline your books, as I do, I underline books. And that one you can underline. Just about every line of the book is so well written. It's great. I wish I had written it. Choosing, caring. And here's what I want to show you. This is what we're going to workshop here in a moment. This is one creating, and I'm going to challenge you to do some things that I hope God absolutely, I prayed last night. I prayed this morning that God would do something in your heart because of this day, because I think this is a dynamite of my day. What we're going to talk about here in a moment.

A leader is choosing, caring and creating, creating all kinds of new ways of doing things and not reinventing the wheel, but taking your message and creating channels and ways of putting the gospel out, of putting the word out, of creating ways of getting it out into other countries, wherever your context may be. But a mind that's fertile. Our problem is we don't have fertile minds. We're memorizing phone books so we don't have time to have fertile minds. Hey, you don't bother me, man. I got to get. Don't touch me. I'll leak. I got to have this thing at night. I got to keep this for the exam, right?

Hey, a leader is one who's choosing and caring and creating. Let me give you some war stories. I don't even know where these relate anywhere along the line, but I got about 20 war stories I'm going to give you. Okay? Do you mind? I mean, I think it'll be kind of blood and guts. Here we go. All right. There's a guy who started the World Football League, American Basketball Association, world Team tennis, world hockey. Did it all, all of it. Most of those died, but he was called the \$9 million dollar man by the La Times. Mr. Playboy throughout the world.

Unbelievable guy. This guy walks into a Bible study where Joe Aldridge was teaching at the time about seven or eight years ago. He sat in there and got hooked. He was in a lot of trouble. He's been sued for \$70 million dollars, that moved up to somewhere around 150,000,000 before it was over with.

Got out of most of the suits. Incredible guy. Lost his wife in the process. Mr. Playboy all over the world. This guy was unbelievable. He sat there in this little scene in this Bible study, we called a floating crap game. We still got it going today. And new poor people float in and float out. We meet at the John Wayne Tennis Club now for an hour

every morning. And we're going through Revelation now, which is kind of wild and non believers float in. Jewish people float in. I mean, it's unbelievable what happened. And got 120 guys floating in and out just moving and grooving out there, and they just come hide. We pray, we do everything. Weird. I've never been anything like in my life.

Anyway, this guy comes in and he says he trusted Christ, and he told a story one morning that I mean, it was incredible. Here's what he said. He said, a man cut in front of me and got a parking spot that I was trying to get to because I was late. And I want to show you how I've changed, how God has changed my life. He said, I would have gotten out of the car in my old life just two months ago. I'd have gotten out of the car and I'd have gone over and I'd have punched this guy, and I'd punched his lights out in a matter of seconds. Then I probably kicked his car and scratched it up with a key out of torn. And he would he's known for that little guy. He punches him out.

He said, I didn't do that. We're all sitting there, hey, man, that's great. That's great. He said, what I did is I went over and found a parking place, and I went over and I didn't touch the guy. He didn't even say a word of the guy. I just let the air out of all four of his tires. He said, that's change. You see a lot of people out there, they are so far out. They are so far out of your ball game that you've never lived there. Now, what are you going to do when a guy says that, hey, man, it's not changed. You don't go let the air out of somebody's tire. No, you jump on it.

You say, Praise the Lord, what a change has happened in your life. Maybe next time you'll go over and give the guy something rather than take something away from him. You jump on the progress. You get on top of it and you say, wow is that terrific. Good night. I've never heard such a change in a guy's life so dramatically in two months, huh? Used to murder people. Now he just wounds them. Hey, that's worth getting excited about, isn't it?

There's another guy. This guy has a little over a million and a half shares of Sears stock. His name is plastered throughout the country. If I were to tell you who it is, you'd know, right now, and this dude kind of checks in because his wife is a believer and his two little boys, junior high, trusted the Lord. We baptized them and the guy checks in just kind of go through the motions, right? He's getting hooked. He's gradually getting hooked and he's coming more and more. Finally, a couple of guys went to him and sat down with him and said, hey, man, where are you? What's going on in your life? He said, Well, I'm afraid what's happened to me is I've become a believer in the last six months.

What happened? What's that all about? He said, well, you know, it's like I'm not going to Church. He said, I've gone to Church before and it's like I'm not going to Church now. We meet in a gymnasium because that helps. But he

says, not going to Church at all. What do you mean? What is it? He said, Timmons just talk so down to Earth, realistic, right where I live. And he introduced me to God that also wants to live there.

He said, I never knew that God wanted to live there. I thought God wanted to live up here with the Holy Christians.

And what's interesting is God doesn't want to live there at all. He wants to live down here on Earth where people live. Remember yesterday I said, we don't speak to Christians or nonchristians. Hang that discernment. Remember, the disciples said that there are the wheats and the tears out there sown in the field. And they said, hey, should we go sort them out? She said, no, forget that noise. Don't stop trying to sort them out.

I'll take care of sorting later. You just keep planting, keep growing them, keep them going. Thinking of a guy who's been through a divorce, he's now in the middle of another divorce. Wild scene, and here's how it happened. I've been a friend of his and he's been a friend of mine and been a super guy. And he's helped me do some things, and I've helped him do some things, but he came to me one day, the first time he came to me, and he said he held out a check, just came and sat down with me at Cocos part of the time. He came and sat down here, and he put a check down right in front of my nose, okay? Now, the check was for \$5,000. I was not a pastor at the time, okay?

Or I would have deposited that one quickly. He put down here a check for \$5,000. Just put it right here in front of my nose. And he said, I want to have a relationship with you, and I want you to help me in all the garbage I'm in. I looked at the \$5,000. I thought, this is fair pay for what I'm about ready to do for this guy's life. But I could smell something. I smelt that he wanted to own me. I smelled that he felt like he had to pay for somebody to care for him, and that's exactly what it was.

So I took the check there in Cocos. I said, sit down. He sat down. I said, let me show you something. This is very important that you understand this very very clearly. And I folded the check, okay? I folded it up very nicely, like I was going to slip it in my pocket. And I took the check, and I said, you know, I could use this money, and there's no doubt about this money could be used well. I mean, I could probably use it better than most people that I can imagine they could use it. But I want to show you something.

I took that check, and I tore it. I just kept tearing it, tearing it. And then I handed over and I said, now, here, I want you to take that, and I want you to put that in a safe place. And I want you to know that I'm willing to be your friend. If you're willing to be my friend, but let's make sure it's on the basis of a torn up check. He what do you mean by that? I said, I don't want your money. I said, well, let me back up. I want your money, but I'm not going to take your money. I want to be realistic about it, right? I don't want to lie to him his money, but let's just keep it that way. He

said, are you for real? I said, well, I think so. I may be on something right now, but I'm for real. He said, okay, I like that.

And I stuck with that guy. And then all of a sudden, I found out this guy was messing around with another woman.