

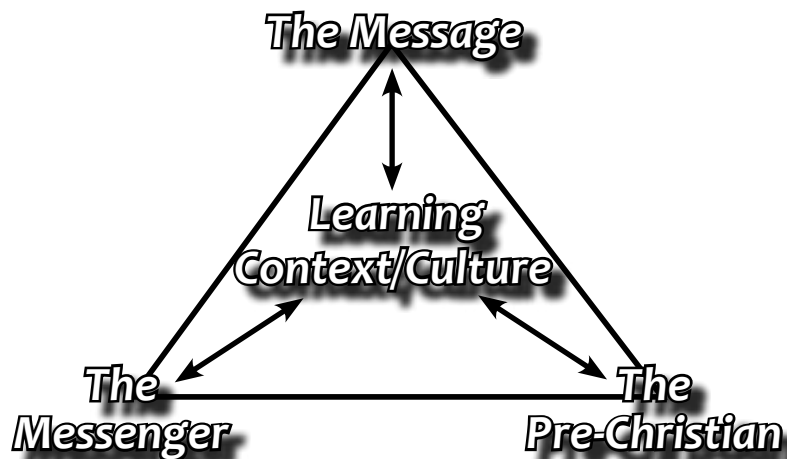
Missional Hearts/Part #2

Long Beach Alliance Church • June 17th, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Many more believed because of His word; and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."
~John 4:41-42 (NASB)**

1) Students Of Culture & Context

- A) In order to "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19-20), we need to be students of culture and context. This learning mindset extends to The Message (God's Word), The Pre-Christian (not-yet-saved), and The Messenger (that's us).



B) Often, Christians are experts in one of these contexts/ cultures, to the detriment of the others. In church culture, this often creates super-smart/super-knowledgable followers of Jesus Christ who never (or seldom) make disciples of anyone except the already-saved.

C) Rather, how can we think and act missionally when we encounter people in our own culture in these common “obstacle” areas to The Message?

- Language
- Spiritual background
- Morals
- Emotional background
- Religion/Cults
- Generational differences
- Economics
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Politics

2) Learning From The Master

A) Without a doubt, when it comes to expert contextualization of Message, Messenger, and Pre-Christian -- no one was ever as effective as Jesus Christ. His disciple-making efforts among the Samaritans through the unlikely “Woman at the Well” (John 4:3-43) is a quintessential example!

B) Note these missional qualities of Jesus Christ in John 4:

- He went to Pre-Christians, he was on their turf.
- He introduced spiritual concepts through common symbols.
- He respected political/ethnic/gender differences, without being distracted. Sensitive without being repulsed.
- He built relationship, despite moral/cultural distractions.
- He respected culture, without being distracted.
- He spoke about spiritual matters, out of His relationship with God. In other words, He knew more than words.
- He disciplined in front of His disciples. More discipleship.
- He was distinctively dependent on God. He wasn’t the One doing all the work, He knew God had already been at work.
- His discipleship of the woman, produced more disciples.
- Despite being a brand-new believer in Jesus, she immediately became an effective disciplemaker.
- He wasn’t into “hit-and-run” discipleship. He knew that if He introduced them to God, He would disciple them as well.
- He inspired His disciples, and told them, “YOU CAN DO THIS!”