

AUTOPSY • Week 4: Your Pain, Their Gain

Daily Briefing • Day 5 of 5 • The Actions of an Ambassador

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

This week we have moved from failure to autopsy to humility to identity exchange to ministry. Today we arrive at what all of that produces: a person on assignment. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I hear Your call to live a life of consequence and significance, and my answer is yes. I accept that I am Your image bearer, called to be light in the darkness. Help my life bear fruit as I labor to share with others the redemption and restoration I have found in You. I commit myself to You in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

There is a difference between a tourist and an ambassador. Both are present in a foreign country. Both may speak the language, enjoy the food, and spend time with the locals. But the tourist is there for themselves. The ambassador is there on assignment. Most people who follow Jesus are functioning as tourists in the places God has put them. They are present in the territory but not on assignment. They consume the culture rather than engage it. The identity exchange we have been building toward all week changes the classification.

An ambassador lives in a foreign country they did not choose. They were assigned it. They represent their home government, carry the King's message, and operate under the King's authority. They are not making policy. They are representing it. Their credibility depends on two things: proximity to the people (you cannot represent a kingdom to people you are never around) and knowledge of the King's positions, policies, and procedures (you cannot represent what you do not know). Your zip code is your ambassadorial territory. Your neighborhood, your workplace, your gym, your kids' school, your coffee shop. These are not random. They are assignment. The ambassador does not wait for the people to come to the embassy. They are already in the territory.

Second Corinthians 5:17-21 names what the identity exchange actually produces. Paul moves from new creation to ministry of reconciliation to ambassador in the same paragraph without pausing. The progression is intentional and it is fast. You are not restored in order to stay in the restoration center. You are restored to go back out into the world as a light that was not there before. And two things are required: proximity and competency. Proximity means being present where people are, not retreating into a Christian subculture. But remember that wisdom, caution, and sobriety govern which relationships and environments are included. Competency means knowing the King's message well enough to represent it accurately. That is what 2 Timothy 2:15 is describing when it calls for a worker who rightly handles the word of truth. Not a seminary degree. Faithful representation of what the King has actually said.

READ & MEDITATE

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Timothy 2:15

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and trace the progression. Notice how quickly Paul moves from new creation to ambassador. Then read 2 Timothy 2:15 and ask what it requires of anyone who wants to represent the King accurately.

REFLECT

The identity exchange does not just change who you are. It changes what you are doing in the place where you already live.

Be honest about how you have primarily been functioning in your neighborhood, workplace, and community. Tourist or ambassador? What does the difference look like practically in your specific context? This might look like treating your neighbors as backdrop to your own life rather than people you are assigned to reach, consuming church services without contributing to the mission, or spending all of your relational energy inside the church community rather than in the territory. Do some honest introspective self-assessment before moving on.

Paul does not let the new creation settle into personal restoration. He moves immediately to mission, and the word he uses for our role in that mission is ambassador.

Fill in the blanks from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 and 20:

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of _____ ... Therefore, we are _____ for Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 20)**

**These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

What does it tell you about the purpose of your own restoration that Paul moves from new creation to ambassador in the same paragraph? What does that do to the idea that the goal of the Christian life is personal improvement or private spirituality?

An ambassador cannot represent a King whose message they do not know. Competency with Scripture is not about accumulating information. It is about being able to faithfully represent what the King has actually said to the people in your territory.

What would it look like for you specifically to present yourself to God as a worker who rightly handles the word of truth? What is one concrete step you could take this week to grow in your knowledge of what the King has said? This might look like using the Daily Briefings consistently rather than sporadically, getting into a Life group where

Scripture is being applied to real situations, or committing to Sunday gatherings as a consistent habit rather than attending only when it is convenient.

MY "I WILL" STATEMENT

Sample: *This week I will identify one person in my "ambassadorial territory", whether my neighborhood, workplace, gym, or community, and take one concrete step toward them. I will also commit to one specific practice that grows my competency with the King's message, whether a Daily Briefing, a Life group, or a consistent time in Scripture focused on what God says about the area where I am now helping others.*

This week, because of what God has shown me in His Word, I will:

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Romans 8:1 from memory:
