

Follow the Leader

August 8 & 9, 2009

God's asking Bethel to enlarge our focus so we engage the entire world

- ***For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John chapter 3 verse 16 (811)***
- ***The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 2 Peter chapter 3 verse 9 (939)***
- ***Jesus said, "I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. ...I was naked, and you gave Me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for Me.... I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!" Matthew chapter 25 verses 35, 36 & 40 (756)***

God's asking Bethel to enlarge our understanding of unity

Jesus prayed, "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one, as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me. John chapter 17 verses 20 & 21 (825)

God's asking Bethel to keep growing & changing

An organization (church!) loses its relevance when the rate of internal change doesn't keep up with the rate of external change

- Jesus hung-out with "notorious sinners" Luke chapter 15 verse 1 (797)
- Jesus was called a "friend of sinners" Matthew chapter 11 verse 19 (742)
- Jesus did His teaching outside of the religious system of His day because the religious system of His day was no longer relevant (TRANSLATION: the religious system was no longer reaching the lost!)
- Jesus said His reason in coming to earth was to "seek & save the lost."
Luke chapter 19 verse 10 (801)

God's asking Bethel get out of our huddle and to play the game!!

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world, like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

Matthew chapter 5 verses 14 & 16 (736)

The song used at the end of the service was "Arms Open Wide" by HillSong United.