

Show 'n Tell
Incarnational Ministry – part 1
5/20/07

Text: Isaiah 58:1-12; 1:13-17

¹ *“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.*

² *Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.*

³ *‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers...”*

¹³ *Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.*

¹⁴ *Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.”*

Today, numerous studies confirm that the public, especially media and “intellectual” leaders, do not see Christianity as a dominant social force. Instead, 6 out of 10 Americans believe the church is irrelevant.

Q’s –

- Are we making a difference?
- Is our influence growing?
- Is the moral tenor of our community changing because of us?
- As Christ-followers, what are we getting equipped for?
- Are we losing our grip on the very world we have been called to reach?
- Is there a disconnect between what we say and do?
- How do we get a skeptical society to hear what we’re saying?
- Whose lives are different because of this church?
- If we disappeared...would our community feel the weight of our loss or behave like nothing even happened?

For too long there has been a chasm between the evangelical church and the neighborhoods outside our church doors. Thus, the message of grace we preach often times goes unheard by those who most need to hear.

Can you *imagine* the community where we live being genuinely thankful for our existence?

Can you *imagine* city leaders....