

## 1. Introduction

- a. Last year on Superbowl Sunday we brought your attention (all 25 of you) to the alarming reality of sex trafficking at sporting events
  - i. By the sovereignty of God, the sermon during the Superbowl once again lined up perfectly with a similar theme to that same sermon last year
- b. Facts about sex trafficking & superbowl - a world desperate for redemption
- c. The world is filled with horrible, hopeless, desperate things like this
  - i. What's our responsibility?
  - ii. Globalization, exploitation of workers, etc
  - iii. It's easier to cling to ignorance and pretend like the reality isn't there than to do anything, but is that what God would want us to do?
  - iv. What should we do?
- d. GLOCAL: Local church, global influence (3 weeks, next week stand-alone)
  - i. Glimpse into Revolve's vision for impacting the community & world
  - ii. Not an exhaustive explanation, but a taste to leave you hungry for more

## 2. Acts 16:16

- a. In Philippi, a district of Macedonia. (Philippians, 12 years later)
- b. While here, he has a girl following him around w/ the "Spirit of Python"
  - i. Myth of serpent lived at the foot of Mount Parnassus and was killed by Apollo. Referred to someone with the spirit of divination (see future)
- c. She was helplessly exploited by her owners
  - i. Used her gift for their own gain
- d. All around the world and locally there are people in hopeless situations: overlooked, forgotten, exploited, hopeless people
- e. Emotionally, Physically oppressed, hopeless
  - i. Ex: Sex trafficking, dirty water, child soldiers, AIDS epidemic, exploitation of poor, orphan crisis, refugee problems, slavery,
  - ii. Ex: Parents exploiting children to beg rather than sending to school so they could sell more goods
- f. The world is filled with hopeless people in hopeless situations**

## 3. Acts 16:17-18

- a. Paul isn't surprised by all this b/c he is spiritually aware
- b. Not just exploited by owners, but she was helplessly exploited by a demon
  - i. c.f. spirit readers, spirit guides, tarot cards, quiji boards - demonic
  - ii. Yes, demonic. That's what Bible, Jesus, and most of world believe
- c. Paul wasn't frightened by the demonic activity either because in Christ there is no reason to be afraid of this sort of thing - without, it's terrifying
  - i. Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world
- d. Like I said, all around the world and locally there are people in hopeless situations: overlooked, forgotten, exploited, hopeless people
- e. Physically oppressed, but also spiritually oppressed, spiritually hopeless
  - i. Ex: India & famine; Burkina Faso; CMC problems; lack of dads
- f. Only Jesus can help the spiritually oppressed - That's why he came.

- i. He uses us as his messengers - we bring the hope of Jesus
- g. Jesus is hope for the hopeless**
- 4. Acts 16:19, 22-23
  - a. Jesus, via Paul, destroys their opportunity to make money exploiting this girl
    - i. They respond in kind
    - ii. Those who make their living off exploiting others will never be excited about the liberating power of Jesus Christ
  - b. Christianity flies in the face of exploitation and is a call to action for those who are in desperate need, but it is costly
    - i. Costly for this little girl, for Paul & friends
    - ii. Complicated (can't just send the girl back..) - Help w/out hurting
  - c. We cannot ignore people in hopeless situations - no matter what the cost**
  - d. That means caring for people physically and spiritually like this girl needed
    - i. It is easier to just do part, but to minister to her as a complex human being, with real spiritual, emotional, economical, physical needs is difficult
    - ii. It is costly to minister to people as they need help
  - e. If this girl were in a situation today, we would say she needs many things
    - i. She needs Jesus, job training, safety, empowerment, healthy friendships
- 5. Acts 16:25-27
  - a. We then see the job of the Philippian jailer - faced death for any failure.
    - i. He knows he has failed, knows his fate, decides to take his own life.
    - ii. He has given up. He is utterly hopeless
  - b. Hopelessness isn't just those who are exploited, dirty water, sex trafficking, etc
    - i. Here is a normal guy at the end of his rope
    - ii. Truth = all are hopeless, but it often takes something to make us see it.
  - c. Without Jesus, all of us are hopeless before a holy God**
- 6. Acts 16:28-30
  - a. Having listened to these guys singing songs about Jesus all night, seeing an earthquake, etc, he asks them what he has to do to be saved
- 7. Acts 16:31
  - a. What do you need to be saved? It must be a laundry list of stuff, right?
  - b. No, simply believe in Jesus. What does that mean?
    - i. Realizing you are hopeless
    - ii. Realizing you can't help yourself. You need someone to save you.
    - iii. Believe in Jesus - surrender to him, turn to him, put your trust in him
  - c. Jesus is our only hope.**
- 8. Conclusion
  - a. Jesus came to make broken, hopeless people whole
  - b. We are called minister to people holistically
    - i. Spiritually, emotionally, physically
  - c. Part of Revolve's vision is to be a local church that has a global impact
  - d. We want to especially focus on people in hopeless situations, what the Bible calls "the least of these"

- i. Orphans, widows, the exploited, the poor and despondent
- e. Jesse and Leigha story
- f. We want to get involved with things like this - it's part of our 2014 agenda
  - i. Figure out how to work alongside top notch organizations in areas like preventing sex trafficking
  - ii. Provide a system for coaching for any parents who might be interested in foster care, international adoption, hope pregnancy center, or other ways to help out orphans
  - iii. Continue providing clean water to people in Central America
  - iv. Pray about branching out into Nicaragua to sponsor and support little girls who are forced to sell themselves into prostitution by their parents to get first pick at looking for food in garbage trucks
- g. As we pray about and branch into these things, however, we want to help without hurting
  - i. It's easy to have good intentions to help people, but actually make it worse
    - 1. Like giving money to that poor kid begging on the street who is being forced to be there
  - ii. We want to empower people, preach the Gospel, minister wholistically
  - iii. And that's a complicated thing, but its a challenge we want to aspire to
- h. Part of our missions philosophy is to care for the "Least of these"
  - i. Here and abroad
  - ii. Tangibly and through raising awareness
- i. We want to give hope to a world filled with hopeless people in hopeless situations
  - i. **Because Jesus is hope for the hopeless**
- j. Individually this can mean a lot of different things from adopting, to sponsorship, to going on a trip, to giving of your finances, etc, etc.
- k. In a nutshell though, it is tangibly demonstrating and declaring the love of God to a hopeless world
- l. Pray how God would have you act to get involved in serving the "least of these," and pray for your leadership as we seek God's face on where he is bringing us
- m. Or maybe you're sitting here today thinking - I am the one without hope.
  - i. Jesus is your hope. He can give you hope today if you would surrender to him, turn from your former life, and follow him instead
- n. **Bottom line: Jesus is hope for the hopeless**
- o. **Action step: Surrender to Jesus for hope, and bring hope to a hopeless world**
- p. **Respond: surrender, pray, give**