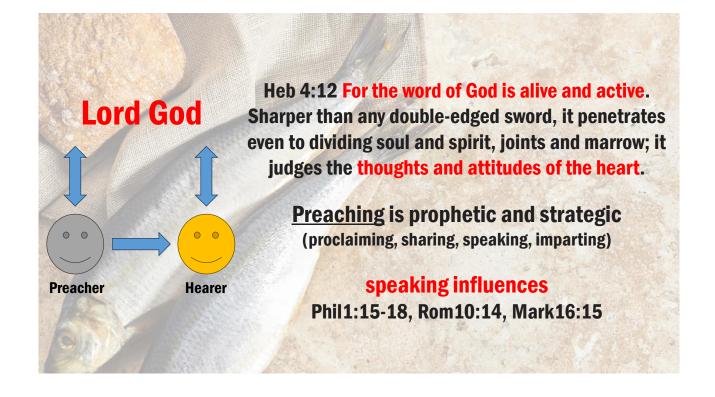


- 1. Divine Identity of Jesus
- 2. Wonder of the Incarnation
- 3. Gift of Eternal Life
- 4. Power of Belief
- 5. Miracles-signs of greater Truth

- 6. Light overcoming Darkness
- 7. "I Am" Declarations of Jesus
- 8. Love as a Command & Lifestyle
- 9. Active Work of 'with us' Holy Spirit
- 10. The Mission of Jesus & our Response/Participation

How has John's Gospel influenced us?
Understanding? Relationally? Practically?



# Crime and Punishment (1866) (F Dostoyevsky)

...our present story is ended.

But there may be...the beginning of a new story...

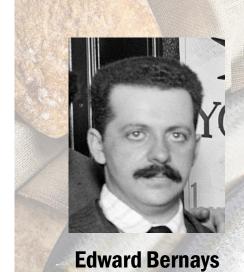
...after some time in prison that his redemption and moral regeneration begin under Sonya's loving influence

# **Definition - 'influence is...'**

the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behaviour of someone or something

to affect or change how someone or something develops, behaves, or think

the power or capacity of causing an effect in indirect or intangible ways



1891-1995

103yo

## 'influence can be wielded'

Crystallising Public Opinion (1923)
Propaganda (1928)

(1929) Torches of Freedom (1950-54) United Fruit Company Public Relations (1945)

The Father of Spin (1999)
Century of Self (2002)
'social media...influencer'

# 'influence is felt by all'

# **English writer HG Wells said**

"I am a historian. I'm not a believer, but I must confess.

As a historian, this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very centre of history.

Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history."

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

John 21:2-3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you."

So they went out...

WE HAVE INFLUENCE - WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH IT?

[Watch John 21:1-14]





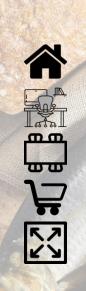


# 'influence on others'

Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out...

John 21:2-3



#### can we influence another? YES

Peter was going back to his old way of life, apparently unaware of what Jesus's commission meant. The others followed his example and went with him.

The result of this self-determined rather than Goddetermined activity was that they didn't catch anything.

David H Stern (1935-2022)(Bible Scholar)

# Peter was going back to his old way of life: an existential crisis

- a period of intense questioning about life's meaning, purpose, and one's own identity.
- can lead to feelings of anxiety, despair, anger, confusion, a sense of meaninglessness.
- can present an opportunity for activity around reflection: God determined activity or self determined activity. (be still & wait)



Sent but....fishing Rejecting, Avoiding, Stuck...

Did Peter...better still, do we...

1/ undervalue... 2/ not give due priority...

3/ not understand... 4/ or choose not to believe...

...the Glory of Jesus given us?

...that we have complete unity— Jesus in us and the Father in Jesus?

...the sending of us by Jesus?

(John 17:22-23)



# **Influence starts with Identity in Christ**

John 17:22-23 - I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.

"Our identity in Christ should be such an integral part of our lives that it is impossible for someone to know us well without understanding how our Christian faith informs our lives."

**Trevin Wax - Gospel Coalition USA** 

# Influence requires humility & receiving

John 21:7 - As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

2 Cor 5:20 - We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

#### **Influence grows with conviction**

John 21:15 - Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

Eph 5:11 - "Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."

# Influence strengthens with infilling

Colossians 2:6-7 - So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.

Psalm 119:97 - How I love your teaching! It is my meditation all day long.

Eph 5:18 - Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life.

Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

# **Influence needs wisdom everyday**

Col 4:5 - Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity (redeeming the time)

Pr 4:23 - Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

# **Influence is perfected by considering others**

Matt 5:38-48 - Give to the one who asks, Go the second mile,
Turn the other cheek, Love your enemies.

If you love those who love you...what reward will you get?

If you greet only your own people...do not even pagans do that?

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Col 3:17 - whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

# **Influence builds the Body**

1 Cor 5:11-12 - But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?

1 Cor 11:1 - Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Heb 10:24-25 - Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

# **Influence effects by allowing Jesus to determine...**

John 21:3 - So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

John 21:6 - He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

When they allowed the Messiah to determine what they should do, they caught a netful David H Stern (1935–2022)(Bible Scholar)

# **Our Influence matters...**

...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

What will you do? Will you believe? Will you reject? Or will you reflect?

