



UNEARTHED – WEEK 2

| KEY THOUGHTS

- We step into Priesthood to represent, reflect, and connect people to God's heart.
- Many of us don't understand the eternal weight or the practical implications of reconciliation. Or we separate the two to fit our lifestyles better.
- When we do this, we abandon our Kingdom Calling or delegate it to people we think could carry it better.
- The Ministry of Reconciliation: the establishment or restoration of community after estrangement.
- We need God's reconciliation, forgiveness, and sanctification.
- God does not need you, but God wants you.
- In light of our reconciliation to God, we are called to reconcile others. In light of God's forgiveness, we are called to forgive others.
- Kingdom Calling: We are not Christ's ambassadors to fix the culture. We are Christ's ambassadors through the ministry of reconciliation.
- Kingdom Calling: We are changed people, changing society.

| SCRIPTURE

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who

never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:16-2

| APPLICATION

- The first thing we must realize is that we need God's reconciliation.
 - God is the source, the initiator, the reconciler. Sin estranged us from God, yet it is His will and nature to reconcile.
 - Here is a God who is so completely holy and has the authority to set the terms of reconciliation because we are the "guilty party." Yet here is a God who says, "I want you...I will pay it for you."
- An ambassador was a very dignified role in biblical times, much like "Royal Priests." Yet, it is not our own dignity that lends weight to our ambassadorship; it is the dignity and authority of the one we represent.
- Practical:
 - Be an agent of reconciliation in your relationships.
 - Be an ambassador of Christ's reconciliation.
 - Intercede for reconciliation.

| REFLECTION

- How does understanding the eternal weight of reconciliation effect the way we conduct ourselves practically?
- Have you ever neglected your priestly, kingdom calling because you felt it was someone else's responsibility? Or maybe because you didn't feel qualified?
- God does not need you, but God wants you. Do you believe that?
 - God is no reluctant Savior. It is only because of Jesus that reconciliation happens. Verse 18 says that it's all a gift from God. Verse 19 tells us that God, through Jesus, reconciled the world to Himself. God does not need us for reconciliation to take place, but He chooses us and bestows this ministry to us.
- What does it mean to be an "ambassador of Christ?"
 - An ambassador is an authorized messenger or representative. Just as Peter calls us priests to reflect God to the people, Paul calls us ambassadors to reflect God to people.
- What relationships in your life right now do you need to reconcile?
- How can you, at your workplace or within your specific community, be an ambassador of Christ's reconciliation?