



009 Bullhorn

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“As I get closer, I hear the words ‘sin’ and ‘burn’ and ‘hell’ and ‘repent.’ And then I hear the word ‘Jesus.’ And he’s got all these pamphlets, and he’s quoting these Bible verses about the anger and wrath of God, and how if I don’t repent, I’m going to pay for it for eternity, and how I might die, I might die tonight! This might be my only chance!”

How do you feel about people like bullhorn guy?

“Bullhorn guy, I don’t think it’s working. All the yelling and the judgment and the condemnation, I don’t think it’s working. I actually think it’s making things worse. I don’t think it’s what Jesus had in mind.”

Are people like bullhorn guy hurting the general perception of Christianity?

What other things other than bullhorn guy negatively taint the perception of the Christian faith?

“I mean, that’s why so many of us are so fascinated with Jesus, because he never stops insisting that God really, really loves us exactly as we are. I mean, isn’t that what draws you to him?”

What draws you to the message of Jesus?

“Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?”

Jesus answered: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.’ This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’ All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments.”

-Matthew 22:36-40 (CEV)

“When Jesus is asked, ‘What’s the most important thing?’ Jesus’ response is to love, love God with everything that you have and then love those around you in the same kind of way. Jesus doesn’t separate loving God and loving others. For Jesus, everything hangs on these two. And so the defining mark of a Christian is love.”

What’s the most important thing in your life?

How does that line up with what Jesus said?

“See, bullhorn guy, this is why the yelling and the bullhorn are so disturbing to us, it seems like you’re just trying to convert people to your religion. Like they’re notches on some sort of spiritual belt. But they’re not. They’re people, they’re people that God loves. They’re people that Jesus wants us to love. They aren’t statistics, they aren’t numbers, they aren’t possible conversions. I mean, if I’m loving somebody with an agenda, then it isn’t really love, is it?”

What does it mean to love someone with an agenda?

Is trying to convert someone to your religious beliefs an agenda?

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. -John 13:35 (TNIV)

“So a Christian is somebody who understands this, who understands that people with different perspectives and different religious beliefs and convictions, they’re to be loved and respected, because they’re made by God, and they’re sacred and they’re valuable and they matter. God loves the world, so a Christian does too.”

Does God love people with different beliefs than you?

As much as he loves you?

How do you feel about people with different beliefs than you?

“That’s why the hell fire and brimstone stuff is so dangerous. When you tell me that I should follow Jesus so that I don’t burn forever, it sounds like a threat. As if you scare people enough they’ll all of a sudden magically decide to love God and follow Jesus.”

Do you think it’s possible to scare people into loving God?

Heaven weeps for the creepy people like you.

“But maybe you’re a Christian, and you’re sitting there nodding, and you’re agreeing with me and you’re going, ‘Yeah! You tell ‘em! It’s about time somebody said that!’ But, what are you doing to change the perception, because that’s what it is.”

What are some general negative perceptions of Christians out there?

Are the negative perceptions of Christianity caused by what we believe or how we’re living?

Are you doing anything to change the negative perceptions?

“So may you see that how you love others is how you love God.

That’s it.

That’s the way of love.

That’s the way of Jesus.”

MY NOTES:

****Many “Velvet Elvis” concert T-shirts can be spotted during the crowd scenes in the film, although that wasn’t the name of the band playing that night. “Velvet Elvis” is the title of Rob’s first book.**