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SPEAKERS

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0:00:00.0 RC: How do you begin to make the case to people on the value and where ministry priorities really need to be shifted to discipleship happening? No matter where you're at, what is that... What does that advocacy look like for you?

0:00:17.2 SH: In the simple answer is the Bible something, you just gotta go far, but the church was on the move and wasn't set it around a building, it's almost at the point where... To even say this is a cliché within the church, we all know when we're talking about people who go through church hurt our first defenses, like you know, Well, the church, not the building, is the people and people... Ovale gonna be hurt by people because people make mistakes, but that does not sum up the church itself as a community and a body under Christ, and so we understand at the church is not the building, but the cliché still doesn't have us in unison, desiring to go out close. So it's interesting, I've always wondered, What if a pastor decided to go on a pulpit on a Sunday and say, Alright, everyone, we're going to all get up, we're gonna go around the corner, I'm going to evangelize whoever we see... Who will come back next week? That's uncomfortable. That is like, Oh man, that's not me, that's not my lane. That that's up to the who, to the evangelist. Come on, man. So it's just interesting, and I feel like that is the purpose of why I wanna is so important, because the real risk takers are children, the real risk-takers in youth... And then you start going to millennials, but it's really Gen Z. Jesus didn't choose anybody, I was a boomer to follow Him, Jesus didn't choose any move like eat, he really got into... In millennials, he chose Gen Z. This is 13 to 22 years old. That's Gen Z right now, that's who he chose to be responsible for the most important message ever. Not to say that the millennials, the boomers and everyone above shouldn't be doing evangelism or promoting, but if the children truly are the future and more importantly, the present, we should be promoting our disciples to be the ones that are the four runners for this. What does it look like to have someone who was 16 years old who's been following you around or 20 years old, like a Peter, someone who's quick at the mouth, reckless... You know what I'm saying? You don't know, you really don't know what you're gonna get. But one thing you understand, He is zealous, what does it look like to have them on the stage, them on the podcast, to involve them in the aspect, but it's tough because it's like, Man, that means I have to... For the older piece, like I gotta give them my platform, I gotta give up the demand to and say, Oh, they're not ready. It came to a certain point, Jesus was like, I'm leaving this up to go, I'm out, we as a church know how to teach... We're very good at teaching. Teaching is... That's the first thing when I buy his list is say, Oh, you go to church. How is he teaching up? I'm like, Man, what if you can go to a church that disciples, You will teach how to be a better in your family, to try to serve, teach you how to give, teach out to worship. And the teaching on as all would you go, typically they had... So we know, 'cause we are such a cerebral culture, it's all about what you know, appear and all... This is like a Allister-Tua aspect of things. And so at a certain point, we've taught what we can teach, trusting that our disciples will take the lead, you know what I'm

saying? And take the baton and run. Win and their zealous to run, but we're not giving them the direction to run because we're not trusting them, and it really just shows we are trusting of ourselves 'cause we're the ones who are teaching them. And so for me, I might man, for discipleship to truly be exemplified in the church, we gotta work with and through the next generation... You know what I'm saying? This is me saying, this is a 30-year-old. I had the opportunity to be someone who... My pastor, my youth pastor promoted me, my youth pastor put me in a position to where it's like, Yo, I'm going to let you be responsible for what we taught you, and then consistently showing me what the theological concepts were, doctrine was How to Serve, How to love, showing up to my high school and then allowing us to go, This is what evangelism looks like. We're gonna come to your school and we're like, those things help me out at such an early stage that it really was a current stage early because the early was the now, if we would call it early based on my age, just like Man... And such an early time, you're all fired for Christ, it's like... What was it early for Peter... Was in early for Matthew? Was it early for... That was the... Now, they were made back then, you know what I'm saying? The culture considered them men, you couldn't tell them, they weren't grown men, they were grown men in their eyes, they all have responsibilities, jobs, trades. And then Jesus is like, Alright, bet. To follow me. So I think that in the midst of saying, Follow me, promoting discipleship outside the four walls, the quickest way to do so is to reach the kids who are already on the platform to do so, they're already... Half our kids are going viral on tiktok, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, randomly, you know, for some random things, and then they always like, What if we... Hey, I'm gonna help you out and empower you to do these things, you know, and you already know, what is a kindred topic within our hearts, which is the Gospel. So in the midst of allowing you to have the resources, we're now going to give you the resources to do a better video than what you did before, a better podcast, what you did before, a better athletic display of what you were doing before, like giving... You allow the resources to be put out towards the youth, they don't feel as though they're not a part of the system, they're not a part of the body, and so when you feel a part of their body, you don't desire to break apart, even when it's time to move on or move towards and expand your life, whether it be through marriage, whether it be through college, whether we do whatever, it's like not... This was true, this was real and this was culture, this was my lifestyle, and I was promoted in that... I know that was a long little segment, but...

0:07:51.9 RC: Oh man, that was great. I couldn't agree more, and I think what I appreciate the most about it is one that reflects the urgency of the moment, we now have data to show that worldview is shaped by the art for 95%, 97% of us, whatever you think about the world by the time you're 13, it's what you're gonna think about the world when you're an adult, and it really... I'm a story of this, but it really takes an act of God to reach an adult who didn't have a fundamental Christian context as a child, but what I also love about what you're describing is the world that our kids are going into... Gen Z is going into 2050 and beyond, as we like to call it here, and wanna... Look so much different than the world of 1990, where we were coming from. So of course, we should empower our kids now, of course, we should give away the resources that we have, of course, we should provide the leadership and wisdom that we have, because they need the training now for what the world is gonna look like in 2050. And I would just implore folks who are listening to pay attention to... This is a very non-elegant way to describe it, but I pay attention to a guy who's doing the thing, one of the things that is so impactful about your ministry as you were doing that exact thing

with kids, you are saying... Yeah, you're in the studio. Just like I'm in the studio, you're in the studio, just like Insert whatever your artist is in the studio, you sound like them, we mixed it so that it has that high of a quality, but it's your story, and I think about... You use tiktok as an example. I think there's so much fear that adults that we old people, you and I are the same age, although you look about 50 years younger, which is the separation. So we as a people have this like, I don't know, I don't understand tiktok, but whenever I see what some of those tiktok and Vangelis to do, my brain is just amazed by the creativity. I would never come up with that, and I've had social media manager on my resume. More times than I could count.

0:10:19.3 SH: You know what's interesting, man, there was a retreat that my friend hosted, and he gathered a majority of the people, you're probably mentioning these Christians to talk influencers, and then I asked one of my close friends, I was like, what was the dynamic of their life amongst the church, a lot of them are not really a part of local churches and don't even understand doctrine. Now, this certain scare you, this speaks to the statistics, what it should do is, it's like, Yo, how they don't go... It's almost like whenever I ate comes out and they're fresh out of high school and never out to be the next big thing, who's the first ideas, Boorman. We gotta get them on our team, I feel like it's the same type of energy, which is like, Oh, how can we... Not to say we're attracted to the influencers, it's like, Oh, we wanna make sure that you're able to do what you do at such a high level, and you never have to worry about resource being an issue, image being an issue. All you have to do is exemplify what you're already doing, and we're gonna be there as a support system, we're gonna help you sign this contract and say, Hey, here's some things we're allowing Liberty, and then also, man, let's not do these things. Because your public image is important when you're associated to this brain, same thing with the Gospel, it's like you're already a athlete or an Athletic bread, all we're gonna do is we're gonna make you the best you you can be in whatever you're already doing, and so Manvers, church was to go through and cast, we do this every Easter play. You're used to play, you're gonna see the Easter play happen, and then they're gonna cast out the rules for it, the last place you start casting as a youth ministry, that's where you should be doing it. If we're testing out the actors for this play of the greatest message on Earth, and then we're saying, Man, we gotta make sure the kids are getting inspired well in the family service where everybody's seen that, saying matters, 'cause I don't got a youth ministry going on during Easter service, how much more impact or would it be the sets you up on the stage? That's what it looked like. Historically speaking, accurately, apply clean, but we're gonna... Mantis like No, it's all about giving up the man took such a joy in that too, there's such a joy in saying, Man, I desire that you do this better than me. That's what change is. Say a disciples, he's like, Oh, you'll be able to look at a Molina. Tell him that says You Aptos is telling you that the miracle signs and wonders he did is nothing in compared to what joined in Jesus themselves desired, that the works that he did are even more amplified through his teachings and his disciples. We should have that much joy to say, Alright, the when I let go on a rain, do it big, 'cause that's my desire.

0:13:49.9 RC: And that support still looks like all of the things that you're doing with kids right now who have no followers on Instagram. I hear John Tyson say, just statistically, there's gonna be somebody, a kid right now who's gonna have a million followers on YouTube, just the size of the platform. So John's point, which is exactly what you're saying as well, it's like, So how do I make sure that that kid Wilke Jesus and everything that they

do, 'cause that kid's gonna have a bigger platform than every church in America put together. So how do I make sure that that kid reflects Jesus in the way that you do that person who's the same to the podcast as you treat every kid, they're gonna have that platform. That's big, because what you said too about doing it better, there are so many simple examples like this... Right, I remember the first time I beat my dad at a sport, we're playing one-on-one, the first time I beat him, right. And there's that moment where his pride is like, Oh man, but then every other ounce of him is like celebrate, because it's this moment of discipleship, and I'm not that that the way it works is, how is supposed to be. This is how it's supposed to be. And we have to... One of the things that I think is so key for discipleship to truly happen everywhere, is for us to stop treating kids like they have a junior version of the Holy Spirit. In person who's listening to this, right? You get it, 'cause you wouldn't be listening to street I talk for this long, if you weren't already sold out to this, there's other idiot your time. But the question I have for you is, obviously, you are so passionate about this, you have this laser focus calling on what God has placed in your life, how do you begin to translate that to other folks who are slower to pick it up, how do you... For the person who's listening to this, who's like, My pastor wants to be at the center of the Easter play, or those kind of simple examples like you're mentioning, how do you begin to change the conversation in a particular context?

0:16:01.5 SH: Yeah, well, to think that it all change through one board meeting or conference call, it's definitely not that easy, but the simplest way to start is in your own household, that's truly where it starts, man, and your kids already have these questions, they just don't know to ask them, it's the weirdest thing. To grow up being taught something and they're never being allowed to see it, whether it be finally realizing the hypocrisy and your parents... It's like, Man, I was told this the whole time, but I kinda find out you... You were doing this. It's like, What? So when we're told like, Hey, the historicity and the church, we're taught this great doctor, we're taught this great thing, and it's like, Wait, how come... Every picture I see on the disciples are with gray hair. How come? It's just, that's the art, that's like the... That even what we do now, not even on a racial state, I'm on so you can make Jesus... Why all you want at least make the disciples junkie, that's even more important right now, because the kids are still divestiture quickly, if I may, please don't make Jesus what I hear you, but let's be a minimus like what my heart... By how that is saying, the intensity behind the youth being able to see the gospel played out in a natural context to where they can relate to it is so important for their own growth and then their own inspiration and saying, Wait, that's just like me, we can't keep telling them, Oh yeah, don't know them. Despise you for your youth. And they're being the spinor, the youth in every single image. Be like day. You know, I said we're young David. It's like, Okay, I can relate to young David Locke. David is a young Renata, you know what I'm saying? I come back and see you, David, who is a young baby, and so I think he likes... It starts in the household, starts with your own children, start seeing your own context where it's like, Alright, what are the kids who are around me? How can I amplify them? Amplifying those who are around you is discipleship. It's like, Yo, I'm teaching you how to be a better you, that's the cycle ship, because that calls you to be a better you in itself, 'cause you wanna be the best you to teach them how to be a better them. And so it works full circle, discipleship causes the people who are the disciples to get on a pan-cubes, 'cause it's like, Man, I'm responsible for this, it's like... I've never known how true the story is, but just the aspect of the Billy Graham story where there was a whole guy fishing at a pond, he always said the gospel message

and it end up reaching Billy grand. What if you were able to be the person who reached the Billy Graham or the person who reached the ability to reach the kid who ends up reaching a billion... That is what it means to say, Alright, back. I may not have the zeal anymore, I may not have the legs anymore, but I can train the one who... That does, I can help them on you, man, you know what I'm saying? And so I don't know what it looks like, 'cause as far as within the convincing this message, because the tough part is, I think we can look at statistics. We can look and say, Alright, bet, we can either work with contest or let him go out and do it on his own, we can work with Bieber, or let him go out and do it on his own. We can work with chance, let him go out and do... That is one. It's gonna get done like Gen Z's not waiting for us. They're going to do what they're going to do. Imagine they had to cover... So we can't record the conversations, we can make it seem like, Oh yeah, but let's stick with what's the rubric? That's a... That's not... That's not on that Tina. Cool. They don't care about that. We've been teaching them this entire time at church, not four walls, so why they care about the four walls anymore, now, I've got my own church with my own followers, and they listen to whatever I say. They're gonna do it no matter what. So their perspective and their character has not been built up, that they have the platform, so what the need is people willing to come in mentor and disciple them, so bad, their character sharp... Their mental is sharp, their spiritually sharp, and they're able to be the best they can be. For the people that are interested in hearing what they have to say. So I think they're just showing people to statistics and then starting in your own household because they're gonna do it, whether whether we help them out or not...

0:21:37.7 RC: That's too great assessment. I wanna land the plane. You've been very generous with your time, but there's one last thing that I wanna drill in on, which is we've talked a lot around here, we talk about child samples, IP as a long, highly relational, believe deeply scripture and become highly experiential. We've talked about a lot about the law. We've talked a lot about the com, and we talked about belief. Plenty, I love your answer before I start with the Bible, you don't have to go far. Right. But as someone who is spending the amount of time investing in Gen Z that you are, I think the extension of what you're talking about of Jen is gonna do what they're gonna do. Without the church's investment, what does Gen Z believe about themselves? What are the messages that they are hearing from other parts of the world that right now, the church is sort of seeding the ground in that conversation, because I think there's this often this mistake to assume that culture... That culture is neutral. A Barna study from a few years ago suggest that 50% of kids believe it is wrong to share their beliefs with someone in hopes that they will change the beliefs... Right, essentially, she's saying that it's wrong, evangelize, that is a fundamental failure and discipleship because it assumes that somebody else isn't trying to disciple to it as a cultural translator, for lack of a better term, for you, What do kids believe about themselves if the church doesn't step in to point out to them what the Bible actually says about who they are...

0:23:15.1 SH: Well, couple of things. First, we grew up in the context where we could just hit the streets and be like... You see somebody crying. You had to communicate, do you wanna say Jesus your Lord and Savior? It's a wrap. We know what a conversation is going, you got a convert, right? You can't do that nowadays. These kids don't know Jesus. There's not a context for Jesus. Because the context they have is whatever I believe is true, because I believe it... It is my truth. So the danger in that is, whenever your truth is challenged, which

it's interesting, it's almost like a picking and choosing of when it's offensive and when it's progressive to have your truth challenge, 'cause it doesn't seem like these, any type of draw back or held back punches when it comes to challenging aspects of the church, Christian Church, but we simply scripture and then be told, Hey, you're being a little too offensive, it's all I do is quote scripture, this is God saying this, this isn't me. You know what I'm saying? But it's offending my truth. Therefore, it's like Man. So if we don't come in and then in a loving way, communicate the message of Jesus, because as critical as Jesus was with the Pharisees who we end up saying in Matthew 12-13, y'all are going to hell. Simple as that is, you just say, the work I do or two bills above... Yeah, it's a wrap or your... This evil generation desire as a sign, but collaboration what I'm saying, that's a Shoshone more signal when you're gonna get as a sign of John, you know, I'm saying he literally... And then from there, he switched his message to parables, he was kinda really, really... Was just with ride was a GE, but the U01 interactions he had... There were always conversions. Every one-on-one interaction Jesus had, there was a conversation, but of course, to us being able to say, I bet, yes, we can communicate from a broad level, in a wide level, yes, we can say something that will offend half the world and get the other half of the world to write for us, but let's not forget the individual, so allowing us to be less social and be more intake-driven because it's easy to say, Alright, but whenever I say something, I'm going to say this in front of 100020 or 100000 people. Cool, then I'll have those 100000 engaged and I'll look at my engagement, look at my insights, looking my statistics and things like that, but the individual is never reached, we're in a place in culture where we can be around social people full of individuals, and still all be on our phones. So I think that we have to encourage and start with ourselves because we've picked up the same habits as well, to get back to the individual, because in the same way someone can call himself a Christian, that means two different things to different people. In the same way someone can call themselves the agnostic person, we can't think, Okay, well, that means you believe this... 'cause I saw a video... No. Well, someone says LGBTQ community, oh well, well, all the men are this because I've seen... To me, it's like you, we have to diversify how we're learning, who are learning from, because if we're not in tune with what is out there, then what it's out there will be dangerous for those who have been held back from that knowledge their entire life or not inform, that the knowledge is out there. And so it was like, Well, this takes my whole world view now, because it seems like you all... We're hiding this from me. It's the difference of, would you rather talk about sex with your children or would you rather them here in the locker room? It's understanding, we have to be the filter for them, we have to be the gauge where it's like, Yo, this is out there, for me to act like it's not... I would not be doing my job. But the most important thing we can do is individually work with them, to work with individuals, 'cause we can all be cool socially, but we can all get canceled socially, but at the end of the day, when it all comes down to it... Who's gonna be that person that comes to you one-on-one and say that... How can I pray for you? So I don't know, that's... It's a blanket statement, but I feel like we all have to... This is all our generations in Zen, whatever you can boom it up, I don't know, but all of us have to go back to individual interaction, because individual interaction, a person-to-person is where we see not just conversion, but that's where we actually see discipleship happens. It's hard to say you deciding to somebody you don't know their... We think we can disciple. The pastor is a shepherd. You know what I'm saying? To say he's discipling everyone, you have to know somebody, you gotta have that interaction to have that personal interaction, there's something about that personal interaction, and so as we're teaching them what discipleship looks like, they gotta be able

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to distinguish, Okay, yes, this is teaching, this is shepherding, this is evangelism, and this is discipleship. Discipleship is gonna take us communicating, hanging out and doing life on life, and first, I have to show them that before we tell them that.