

The Whistle Has Blown - It's Time! The Book of Zechariah

"I will whistle for them and gather them in..."

Blowing a whistle signals that it's time to gather together! No matter where you are, what you're doing, when the whistle blows you respond!

The whistle has blown for students & teachers to return to school! The response of many of us this week has been to re-adjust, re-align, and re-engage our lives around school!

- The re-adjustment starts in the mind with making intentional decisions!
- The re-alignment happens when new priorities are put in place!
- The re-engagement is a result of a rekindled passion for what's ahead!

There is always a mixed bag of emotions when it's time to go back to school. From joy to sorrow... Regret to anticipation... Excitement to fear...

Re-adjusting, re-aligning, & re-engaging our lives can be really hard at times, but it can also bring about some pretty amazing opportunities as well!

Let's list some of the Negatives / Positives to going back to school?

How do we tip the scales in the direction of focusing on the positives?

What if we took our cues from what schools & teachers do every year before school starts?

- They decorate their classroom - Refresh the look!
- They have an open house - Renew the excitement!
- They update their syllabus- Redefine the who, what, where, when, why!

If this works with going back to school, why can't it work with church too?

This is essentially what God had Zechariah do to re-engage God's people after the scattering of the exile! God, through Zechariah, blew the whistle! The time to regather, re-prioritize, and reignite their passion was now!

The people had returned to Jerusalem, but they were struggling to fully re-adjust, re-align, and re-engage together as God's people!

So God, through the work of His prophet, did what we see the schools & teachers do every year when the school bell/whistle blows after summer!

- God refreshed the look thru the rebuilding of the wall & the temple!
- God renewed their passion & excitement by meeting with them, & returning His glory to the temple! God had a glory-filled open-house!
- God updated His syllabus by more fully revealing the who, what, where, when, & why of His Kingdom by pointing out the coming Messiah!

The book of Zechariah is filled with what is ahead for those who participate in "this class/this Kingdom" - Salvation, once & for all, is coming!

If anything should mobilize, motivate, and engage God's people, it should be the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ - His 1st and 2nd coming!

Today is no different than Zechariah's day! The Church needs to re-adjust, re-align and re-engage after our scattering exile of COVID!

God is blowing the whistle! The time is now! & those in Church leadership, ought to be doing all we can to provide a space, a people, & a mission for us to engage in together! Every year, we have the same opportunity the blown the whistle at the end of summer and kickoff the new church year!!!

The church bell/whistle is ringing! On September 11th, we will be kicking off the new church year, and we want you to be a part of it with us!

But we have some work to do before then! Let us, every leader, every volunteer, in every ministry here at BRC, do as the teachers do at school before the new year kicks off:

- Let's "refresh" our ministry look! - Logo, space, emails, website, etc.
- Let's "renew" the passion for our ministry! By creating or updating the mission statement/vision of our particular ministry.
- Let's "redefine" the "why" behind our ministries! By stating the source behind why the ministry exists in the first place - Scripture!

Over the next 3 weeks can each one of our ministries, collectively with the leader(s) & volunteers, come up with a new/revised logo, a mission statement, & a Scripture that can breathe new life into the ministries of BRC?

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