

1: HOW DO YOU MOVE THROUGH THE WORLD, DO PEOPLE NOTICE THAT YOU MOVE TO A DIFFERENT RHYTHM?

In our attempts to engage with culture, do we transform it or does it transform us?

READ **ROMANS 12: 1-2**

Here we have that wonderful line “Do not conform to the pattern of this world” . In the western world reality TV shows teach us to ‘judge’, the media can make us fearful, health and safety can stop us from taking risks and advertising can turn us into consumers!

DO WE LIVE IN A JUDGEMENTAL, FEARFUL, RISK ADVERSE, CONSUMERIST SOCIETY?

Does this affect how we dance?

READ ALOUD **GENESIS 32: 22-32**

If this picture is a picture of prayer, we should note that an encounter with God affects identity; Jacob got a new name!

We should also see that it affected Jacobs walk; from that day on he limped. He moved differently after an encounter with God.

MICAH 6: 8

"AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU. TO ACT JUSTLY AND LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD."

How do we as communities ensure that we are moving to this rhythm?

THE BASELINE - PRAYER

Walking humbly is a walk of prayer. Prayer changes things. Prayer changes lives.

Prayer is the beat of all that we do; it's dangerous and can alter the course of our lives. It is a wild, exciting rhythm that we need to dance to.

THE MELODY - MISSION

Another layer to this rhythm is ‘Loving Mercy’. A rhythm of mercy is a rhythm of ‘mission.’ We feel the beat of mercy on our own lives and want others to feel it as well.

In **Isaiah 6** we see the prophet move from the baseline of prayer and intimacy to the response of “**Here I am send me**” he let the rhythm move him.

THE HARMONY - JUSTICE

Justice is an essential part of the Christians dance. This is the strand that shows us how to do what is right. To move right.

Here's the justice part of the dance: **Isaiah 58: 5-6**

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to lose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke. Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?.”

PRAY

Father God, we pray that you would help us to move our lives to a different beat. Father we want to be a prayer people but we also want to be a missional people, pour your Spirit on us that we may be both - **For the sake of Your Kingdom, Amen**