

Grace Notes

Knocked Silly

06.25.09



“And they were all amazed....”
Mark 1:27 (nasb)

Youth Camps & Discipleship Weekends are crucibles of supernatural activity in the lives of students and youth leaders. The past two weeks I had the privilege of participating in both. And I was blown away by what I saw and heard.

I saw students not only listening, but writing furiously as they were taking notes during numerous teaching sessions. I watched students—remember, these are teenagers—give almost \$6000 out of their own pockets to further the ministry of a church in the Dallas area that ministers almost solely to the addicted, the angry, and the hopeless. I listened to a grown man, tears in his eyes, share how this past year his dad, an alcoholic, professed his faith in Christ. I watched over 1000 students worship the Risen Christ so intensely it must’ve been akin to when the glory of God filled the temple in the Old Testament. I sat and visited with a man, recently released from prison, who desperately wants to pour his new love for Jesus into students so they can, hopefully, learn from his mistakes. I listened to a young, courageous pastor tell of his efforts to build relationships with the drug dealers in his neighborhood so as to help them see that Jesus loves them. Finally, I watched Jesus transform life after life of both students and adults. One parent said about her teenager, *“It’s been like I’m living with a different kid.”* Such is the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

There are a number of nuances associated with Greek words translated “amazed” in our New Testament. I chose the one above because, in this Scripture, the word literally means *“to be knocked silly, to be struck with amazement.”* And, as I reflect on what I’ve seen and heard, that’s a pretty accurate description of how I felt—and still feel.

But, you don’t have to go to a youth event to be amazed at the power of God—the people in Mark 1 were simply watching Jesus. And that can be done wherever you are—because He indwells *you* by means of the Holy Spirit. Pray that “the eyes of your heart be opened” (Eph. 1:18). And then prepare to be knocked silly.

Soli Deo Gloria, Nick

