

Background Passage:

1 Timothy

Lesson Passage:

1 Timothy 4:7-16

Focal Verse:

1 Timothy 4:8

for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come

Biblical Truth:

Salvation occurs when Christians live by godliness. Submission to the lordship of Christ is the first step of godliness (pure worship) which leads the lost to Christ for salvation through the Word of God and His servants.

Lesson Outline:

Paul helps us understand submission through the:
-Training in Godliness
-Mission of Godliness
-Ministry of Godliness

The Calling of Submission

February 7

Background & Introduction

2 Peter 1:5 – 7 provides 8 attributes that should be growing in EVERY Christian

Through these attributes Christians are beckoned to answer certain calls.

Through FAITH we answer the call of SALVATION
Through MORAL EXCELLENCE we answer the call of SEPARATION
Through KNOWLEDGE we answer the call of SANCTIFICATION
Through SELF-CONTROL we answer the call of SERVICE
Through PERSEVERANCE we answer the call of SUFFERING
Through GODLINESS we answer the call of SUBMISSION
Through BROTHERLY-KINDNESS we answer the call of SHARING
Through LOVE we answer the call of SPIRITUAL MATURITY

These terms are not synonyms, they are if / then statements.

Today we are going to focus on **godliness**, the call of **submission**

Godliness in the Greek = *eusebeia* is two words put together

eu = good

(exp. EULOGY = *eu* – good *logos* – word = bring a good word)

sebeia = worship

(bow our heart, soul, and mind before the Lord)

So...godliness = GOOD WORSHIP

Jesus said in Matthew 22:37 – 38

You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind.

*Godliness demands our SUBMISSION unto the Lord giving Him pure, holy, GOOD WORSHIP.

We find this in 1 Timothy 4:7 – 16

*READ 1 Timothy 4: 7 – 16

One Sunday on their way home from church, a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me." The mother said, "Oh? Why is that?" The little girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?" The mother replied, "Yes, that's true honey." "And he also said that God lives in us? Is that true, Mommy?" Again the mother replied, "Yes." "Well," said the little girl, "if God is bigger than us and he lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

Does God "show through" in your life?

James S. Hewett

Let's discover how Paul instruct Timothy in godliness. May the world see the Christ we have in our lives through submission.

ILLUSTRATION:

“Just as a skillful coach will often return to the basics of the sport to pull the team or a player out of a slump, Paul returns to the basics to keep this church on track. As he seeks to counteract the influences of the false teaching here, he emphasizes one of the most important practical lessons of the Pastoral Epistles: the soundness of a church depends on ministers and leaders who are sound in their faith and practice.”
(IVP Commentary)

APPLICATION:

-Are we training in order to produce the desired results?

-Is worship pure and holy?

-Is worship all out you?

-Is worship only about the church?

The Calling of Submission

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Paul helps us understand submission through the:

1. Training in Godliness - v. 7-9

Godliness requires discipline. Paul writes again about being physically disciplined and how it leads to little gain (1 Cor 9:25-27). So the focus of the discipline should be on eternal matters, godliness, because it leads to present gain (joy) and eternal gain (salvation).

*Christians leaders are in training.

The training is found in verse 6 (Spiritual nourishment on God's Word).

Addressing elements of distorted religiosity is found in verses 1-5.

Address myths and wives' tales = asceticism (the abstinence of certain foods and disparagement of marriage) v. 1-5

The apostates held a view that the body could be disciplined and held into submission, a form of religiosity, leading to godliness.

Training in Godliness requires one to be strengthened in their faith through the good teaching of the Word of God.

For the Purpose of Godliness = Pure Worship

Obedying Jesus Christ's greatest commandment,

“love the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39

Worship is exalting God as we bow in submission

Sometimes this is external bowing, always it is internal bowing

Let's see how serious God looks at our religiosity

Look at Amos 5:21 – 24 *"I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let **justice** roll on like a river, **righteousness** like a never-failing stream!*

Training is in vain if the training is not beneficial to the person submitting themselves to the training.

The training for the believer is growing in worship.

On the next page there are a few specific elements of worship (Corporate and Individual):

APPLICATION:

Godliness for the purpose of worship.

Worship happens outside of structured times at church. Experience worship alone, with family, with friends, out of church, and in church.

Train in such a way that yields godliness.

The Calling of Submission**February 7**

Some Specific Elements of Worship (Corporate and Individual):

*Commitment – Romans 12:1 – 2

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

*Prayer – Psalm 95:6

Come, let us bow down in worship let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

*Singing – Ephesians 5:19

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

*Giving – 1 Corinthians 16:1 – 2

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

²On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

*Exclamation of the Word – John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth

*Meditation – Habakkuk 2:20

But the LORD is in His holy temple Let all the earth be silent before Him

*Baptism – Romans 6:3 – 4

³Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

*Lord's Supper – 1 Corinthians 11:23 - 26

²³For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

APPLICATION:

The goal of physical discipline can be personal gain or career gain:

- weight loss
- heart health
- self-confidence
- performance
- skill requirement

The goal of godliness is for people to be saved. Godliness comes through answering the calling of submission unto God. Approaching Him with clean hands and a pure heart is the first step in sharing His love with the world. Christians can't shine the light if they are not shining Jesus. This shine only comes through a heart that is fully in submission to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSS:

- How much time do we spend focused on the wrong goals?
- Is our balance in check?
- Are we so focused on ourselves that we can't see the lost?
- Are we so focused on the lost that we can't see our own shortcomings?
- Does our teaching encompass a biblical worldview?

The Calling of Submission

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Paul helps us understand submission through the:

2. Mission of Godliness - v. 10 & 16

Salvation is the mission of Godliness.

A person can only be saved when they come to the Father in full submission.

LOOKING UP IN ORDER TO LOOK OUT

¹⁰For it is for this (godliness) we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

We as brothers and sisters in the ministry have one goal. That goal is to fulfill the commission of Christ which is to share the Gospel with everyone we come in contact with. Last week we learned that suffering will come to those who live loud with the Gospel and when it comes, God is faithful to deliver us in every way. We should be confident in knowing that the goal of godliness leads to people being saved.

There are goals to physical discipline.

The average professional football player practices and works-out for 40 hours per week. This does not include watching film for studying opponents, the diet, and the actual competition. All this discipline is wrapped up in one mission, to win the Super Bowl. Along the way through a grueling 4 preseason games, 16 regular season games, and the playoffs players discipline their bodies to perform under the extreme pressure. This discipline pays off for the few who get to enjoy the prize of Super Bowl champs.

***How temporal a crown it is.**

There are goals to Christian discipline:

Christian...minister (one in the same) the goal for godliness is to see people saved. We spend 119 hours per week awake living the Christian life. This is a task that never stops. Spending 10 minutes per day reading a devotional excerpt and praying is not the discipline required for godliness. We must see that when we submit to the lordship of Christ, He is our focus and that the way to godliness is through continual prayer and reading the Word of God. This discipline pays off for the few who get to enjoy the opportunity of leading the lost to the Lord.

***How eternal a crown this is.**

LOOKING UP IN ORDER TO LOOK IN AND OUT

¹⁶Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

The mission is to lead the lost to the Cross, however self examination is a must.

-We cannot be intimidated by the critics. We are called to teach with diligence what God's Word says.

As Paul states in Romans 10:14-15, we are all called to preach and teach the Kingdom is at hand.

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

APPLICATION:

MYTH = You have to be called to be a minister.

FACT = All Christians are ministers.

We are bond-servants of the King called to meet the needs of the hurting with the power of the Holy Spirit.

MYTH = Ministry only takes place at the church

FACT = New Testament ministry rarely happened in a church. God designed us to be ministers throughout the community.

DISCUSS:

What gift are you actively using for the glory of God through godly submission?

The Calling of Submission

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Paul helps us understand submission through the:

3. Ministry of Godliness - v. 11-15

Timothy remains in view as the instructions address other aspects of the leader's life and the essentials of worship in relation to the effectiveness of ministry.

1. Exemplary Christian lifestyle (4:11-12). The first requirement for an effective ministry is an exemplary Christian lifestyle. Nothing proves the veracity of the gospel as well as evidence of its life-changing power. The example Paul calls for here is that very proof: *an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity* (v. 12).

**Speech* and *life* (better, "conduct") encompass most of the observable life--the visible dimension of godliness. In fact, James places first importance on control of the tongue, which will then provide for control of the rest of one's behavior (Jas 3:2). Through what a Christian says and does the truth of the Christian faith will be either demonstrated or denied, for true spirituality (*godliness*) is the composite of faith or knowledge of God and its outworking in the believer's life.

**Love* and *faith* summarize the Christian life. Paul frequently aligns these two qualities, *faith* referring to the relationship with Christ and *love* to activity generated by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:6 explains that genuine Christianity is "faith working through love": a proper knowledge of and commitment to Christ which controls the life of the believer.

**Purity* alludes to sexual conduct (compare 5:2). Paul singles out this concern undoubtedly because questionable conduct here will ruin the Christian leader's reputation and ministry.

As the list suggests, effective ministry and godliness are inseparable. Remember, as Paul gives these instructions he warns the readers away from the heretics' one-sided, totally subjective concept of spirituality and encourages leaders to be models of the true life in the Spirit that involves the whole person.

2. God-centered worship (4:13). The second requirement for effective ministry is God-centered worship. Under the false teachers' influence, gatherings for worship were degenerating into speculation about "myths" and strange doctrines (1:3-4) and debate about their meaning (1:4; 6:4-5). Paul responds by refocusing attention on God's Word as the source of knowledge about him and the life of faith.

He urges the constant practice of: Public Reading of Scripture, Preaching, and Teaching.

3. Exercise of spiritual gifts and calling (4:14). A third requirement for effective ministry is the faithful exercise of spiritual gifts. Paul's instruction to Timothy in verse 14 is logically connected with the reference to preaching and teaching. The fact: Timothy has a gift (*charisma*) for ministry. All Christians have a gift for ministry. All those who have been bought by the blood of Christ possess a spiritual gift for ministry. We are all called to use that gift. They are given to equip the church to carry out its ministry until Christ returns.

4. Diligence and growth (4:15). Finally, effective ministry requires diligence and progress. Paul describes diligence in two ways: *be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them*. He is referring to the pattern of lifestyle and ministry just outlined. The first verb means to practice with diligence and carries similar connotations to the "training" metaphor in 4:7. The second phrase means, literally, to "*be in these things*"--that is, to be absorbed in them. In modern idiom, the minister must "live and breathe" these things.

When we answer the calling submission we are willing to live our life in godliness.

This is a balance of inward and outward.

We must learn how to look up and then God will cause us to look in forcing us to look out. Godliness is a 24/7 task. It never rests for the Christian. If the Christian ever rests from godliness, they grow weary in the march causing their light to grow dim and their salt to become tasteless. God can and will restore the fuel for the light and infuse salt back into the Christian who is serious about living for Him in submission to His lordship.

This living demands a continual search to push people closer to Christ.

"His heart is ever lifted up to God at all times and in all places. In this he is never hindered, much less interrupted, by any person or thing. In retirement or company, in leisure, business, or conversation, his heart is ever with the Lord. Whether he lie down or rise up, God is in all his thoughts; he walks with God continually, having the loving eye of his mind still fixed upon Him, and everywhere 'seeing him that is invisible.'"

John Wesley

May we be a people whose hearts are seeking godliness in all things.

*Ask the Lord today to give you discipline to fulfill His mission through the ministry He allows you to be apart.

Bibliography:

Intervarsity Press Commentary

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

Background Passage:

Hebrews 13

Lesson Passage:

Hebrews 13:1-6

Focal Verse:

Hebrews 13:1

Let love of the brethren continue.

Biblical Truth:

God has called us to live in brotherly-kindness, love (*philadelphia*). This leads to sharing in such a way that demands out whole being. Such a demand that a Christian cannot run from due to the fact that this is how the world will know that we are His children.

Lesson Outline:

Sharing is evident in Christian:

1. Conviction v. 1-3
2. Covenant v. 4
3. Contentment v. 5-6

The Calling of Sharing

February 14

Background & Introduction

READ 2 Peter 1: 5 – 9

Through FAITH we answer the call of SALVATION
Through MORAL EXCELLENCE we answer the call of SEPARATION
Through KNOWLEDGE we answer the call of SANCTIFICATION
Through SELF-CONTROL we answer the call of SERVICE
Through PERSEVERANCE we answer the call of SUFFERING
Through GODLINESS we answer the call of SUBMISSION
Through BROTHERLY-KINDNESS we answer the call of SHARING
Through LOVE we answer the call of SPIRITUAL MATURITY

How do we answer the call of SHARING?

We must understand kindness.

In the Greek the term *philadelphia* is used for:

“brotherly-kindness” in 2 Peter 1:7

“love of the brethren” in Hebrews 13:1

No matter how you word it, we are called to share in kindness with love.

We find the chief text in Scripture instructing us about Brotherly Kindness (*Philadelphia*) in **Hebrews 13:1 – 6**.

A little background to the text:

-Not Pauline (written by Paul)

Why

-2 Thess 3:17, Paul states he identifies every letter of his

-The writer states that he received instruction from others 2:3 Paul’s states he received instruction from Christ Himself (Gal. 1:12)

Most likely Barnabas (most textual critics agree)

The text is basically about the fact that the traditional Levitical sacrifices whether in the Temple (where they were no longer allowed) or synagogues, were no longer needed because Christ is the ultimate **and** final sacrifice.

Let’s read Hebrews 13: 1 – 6 and discover three ways we are called to sharing.

We see evidence of Christian living when we accept the responsibility of kindness.

1. Sharing is evident in Christian: Conviction

ANGELS:

The First Century writers lived life with a very clear view of Scripture and how God was working through the everyday lives of Christians through His omniscient power. His power was and is still displayed through angels and through His children living in the Holy Spirit.

Let us never forget that angels are present today and working on behalf of the saved.

We do not worship angels. We worship God Who sends the angels for our assistance through everyday life.

APPLICATION:

Kindness goes beyond what we want to do, it is an attitude only God can grant in the spirit.

DISCUSS:

-What needs to change in order for you to truly share with this world?

-Ask God to help you see this world the way He sees this world;

Everyone is to worship Him. It is our job to lead those who don't know Him. This only comes through a conviction of sharing kindness.

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1. Sharing is evident in Christian:

Conviction v. 1-3

-Conviction to share with Christians v. 1

John 13:35 = *By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

1 John 3:14 = *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.*

1 Peter 1:22 = *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*

*Is there a brother or sister in Christ who you must ask forgiveness for a wrong you have done to them?

*Is there a brother or sister in Christ who you must explain why you have feelings against them for what they may have done to you?

Christians must leave all of their fake worship at God's altar and make it right with the fellowship of believers. This must happen in order for unconditional sharing to occur.

-Conviction to share with strangers v. 2

The focus of this verse is not angels. The focus of this verse is loving individuals who you do not know. Some that you will entertain "show love for" will be angels sent from God to give you assistance in your walk.

Don't be so busy you can't share with people you don't know.

Don't be so stifled that you can't believe in the omniscient power of God and His working through angels on our behalf.

ILLUSTRATE:

Blinders are used to keep horses focused on the track, not one another in the race. Stop the tunnel vision. Take the blinders off and run the race seeing the whole track. Get to know new people. We are not horses in a race for a temporal crown. We are Christians in a race for the eternal crown. This is the way of Jesus Christ. He constantly allowed strangers into His life so that they would come to recognize Him as the Savior. If we don't begin to entertain strangers, who will? Look for the strangers in your midst...some may just be angels sent for a supernatural message for you to hear.

-Conviction to share with the suffering v. 3

Undeserved affliction—the persecuted

Do you remember Jesus Christ's command to go the extra mile and turn the cheek in Matthew 5:38-40? He was referring to the fact that Christians will have to persevere with the kindness in order to share the true Gospel of peace.

In A.D. 67-69 when the book of Hebrews was penned, Christians were enduring severe persecution. We are never to forget those among us who are suffering for the Lord's sake. For when Christians live loud, they will be called out. Sharing in kindness with those in need is like a boomerang. Someday, maybe today, you will need that kindness shared with you as a result of unforeseen persecution.

DISCUSS:

What are some other ways to show acts of kindness that will open the doors for the Gospel?

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The phrase "Practice Random Kindness and Acts of Senseless Beauty" was first penned by Berkeley writer and activist Anne Herbert in 1982, and soon thereafter the phrase began to appear sporadically as graffiti in the San Francisco Bay Area. Almost a decade later, San Francisco Chronicle columnist Adair Lara wrote about the phrase in her column. This article was noticed by the editors of Conari Press, a small press in Berkeley, California.

Inspired by the phrase, Conari Press decided to publish a collection of stories recounting individual experiences of kindness. The resulting book titled *Random Acts of Kindness*, published in February 1993, sparked great interest from newspapers and radio talk shows throughout the country who began interviewing local kindness crusaders and celebrating their deeds.

Here are some suggestions from the world to help practice Random Acts of Kindness:

Compliment a stranger sincerely

Write a thank you note to someone

Send handmade cards or a letter to someone you care for

Cut coupons out and leave them at the grocer register for others

Put together a writing kit with stationery, envelopes and stamps, pen and give to hospital/nursing home

Send a card to someone in the military overseas

Start a conversation up with a co-worker that you don't know

Put change in a row of vending machines

Visit a nursing home. Spend time visiting with someone who doesn't get visitors

Put something you no longer need on Craig's list free spot for your area

Share Jesus with someone you know

Share Jesus with someone you don't know

WE DO NEED to show acts of kindness because kindness is an attitude of our Spirit. This leads to glorifying God and being able to share Christ.

Our acts are not random in order to make us feel tingly inside. Our acts are strategic in order to point to the Jesus. When we practice kindness with a pure heart, we share in such a way that our left hand doesn't even know what our right hand is doing. Our sharing becomes so natural that we share continually with conviction.

If we are not careful, we will forget to let people know the real reason for the kindness, and that is found in Christ's power, not manmade motivation.

Mark 10:2-9

²Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.

³And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?"

⁴They said, "Moses permitted a man TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶"But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. ⁷"FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, ⁸AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹"What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

In other words...it is never "lawful" to divorce. Divorce is a manmade word with manmade implications. God designed a man and a wife to be united in mind, soul, spirit, and strength, not just in the strength (flesh).

This is a HOLY COVENANT between God and the couple that no man, woman, boy, or girl should separate.

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2. Sharing is evident in Christian: Covenant

-Honorable covenant

The marriage covenant, whether an individual is married or not, is to be highly esteemed by all, not just by the husband and wife.

-Holy covenant

See: Mark 10: 2 – 9 for Jesus explanation of the covenant between two people and the Lord.

ILLUSTRATE:

*Statistic on marriage

According to *Enrichment Journal* on the divorce rate in America:

The divorce rate in America for first marriage is 41%

The divorce rate in America for second marriage is 60%

The divorce rate in America for third marriage is 73%

*This is not to condemn remarriage, but the question that has to be answered is: has the individual who seeks to be married to another individual ever been married to Christ alone?

Sociologist and historian Carle Zimmerman, in his book *Family and Civilization*, compares the disintegration of various cultures with the parallel decline of family life in those cultures.

Eight specific patterns of domestic behavior typified the downward spiral of **each** culture Zimmerman studied:

*Marriage loses its sacredness and is frequently broken by divorce;

*Traditional meaning of the marriage ceremony is lost;

*Feminist movements abound;

*There is increased public disrespect for parents and authority in general;

*An acceleration of juvenile delinquency, promiscuity and rebellion occurs;

*There is refusal of people with traditional marriages to accept family responsibilities;

*A growing desire for, and acceptance of, adultery is evident;

*There is increasing interest in, and spread of, sexual perversions and sex-related crimes.

The Christian Response...

*Divorce is not an option

*The marriage ceremony is special and should stay that way

*The men need to be the spiritual authority in the home

*Adults should demand respect by acting respectfully

*Children are to be held accountable for their actions

*We can no longer outsource children's education

*There is a call to be separate through moral excellence

*Stop renting and watching trash online and on TV

DISCUSS:

-How can we honor the covenant of marriage? We share in this responsibility.

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶"Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

²⁷"And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? ²⁸"And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, ²⁹yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. ³⁰"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! ³¹"Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'"

³²"For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

So what then...why are we worried about money?
Share kindness with it!

The Calling of Sharing

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3. Sharing is evident in Christian: Contentment

Ministry cost money. We are to answer the calling of sharing and this does include money. We must approach ministry with open hands with eyes looking up so that we can share the money that we have since God provided it in the first place.

How are using God's money for sharing?

ILLUSTRATE:

Forbes Company reports that the average American household makes \$54,000 per year. Faithfulness is expressed in the way in which these homes spend money:

Food = 15% = \$8,100 or 155 per week

Housing = 33% = 17,820 or 1485 per month

Utilities = 8% = 4320 or 360 per month

Clothes = 4% = 2160 or 180 per month

Transportation = 19% = 10,260 or 197 per week

Health Care = 7% = 3780 or 315 per month

Entertainment = 5% = 2700 or 52 per week

Insurance and Pensions = 9% = 4860 or 405 per month

This leaves 0% ... for you fill in the blank.

*As you may see there is no room for sharing. Only stressed living.

We share because Christ shared the ultimate gift of life with us on the Cross. Without His selfless act, we would still be wandering in the wilderness of sin. He gave Himself as the sacrifice for our sin.

Promise of Provision = Matthew 6:25 – 34

*If...seek the Kingdom and His righteousness, then...He provides

Matthew uses Kingdom as a reference to God's ultimate plan.

Seek the Kingdom =

-present, & partially, with the believers

-future, & fulfilled, with the Lord in eternity

Matthew 6:9 – 13 = How we should pray & how we should live!!!

His Righteousness =

-Seek a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ's perfection

2 Corinthians 5:20 – 21 = how we are to live!!!

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Why worry about the provisions of everyday life. When we are caught up in the work of Christ, He will give us the contentment to see through the stuff and see the people to reach.

*How can we begin sharing kindness with our money?

Conclusion:

The key verses of kindness. The standard...

Luke 6:27 - 38

²⁷"But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹"Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. ³⁰"Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. ³¹"Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. ³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³"If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴"If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. ³⁵"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. ³⁸"Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

-Are we willing to receive God's Character of kindness?

-Are we willing to share ultimate kindness (the Gospel) with those who are not kind?

-Are we willing to accept the conversion of those who have been transformed by Christ and granted the spirit of kindness?

-Are we willing to follow Christ's commandment to be kind, even to the unthankful and evil?

The kindness that I know that I am required to share is **not** RANDOM. It **IS** INTENTIONAL.

I am to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to ALL!!!

The real question, which is far more important the previous four is:

-Are you willing to give up living your life on your own and ask Jesus Christ to be in control so that you can share the kindness He demands?

Background Passage:

1 John 3 & 4

Lesson Passage:

1 John 4:7-21

Focal Verse:

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Biblical Truth:

When a person accepts Christ as Lord of their life, He shines through them with unconditional love for this world. This love leads to an unending desire to see people become part of His family through salvation.

Lesson Outline:

Essentials of Active Love >

Active Love is:

1. Displayed through Christ v. 7-10
2. Displayed through Christians v. 11-16;20-21
3. Displayed through Confidence v. 17-19

The Calling of Spiritual Maturity

February 21

Background & Introduction

2 Peter 1: 5 - 7

Through FAITH we answer the call of SALVATION

Through MORAL EXCELLENCE we answer the call of SEPARATION

Through KNOWLEDGE we answer the call of SANCTIFICATION

Through SELF-CONTROL we answer the call of SERVICE

Through PERSEVERANCE we answer the call of SUFFERING

Through GODLINESS we answer the call of SUBMISSION

Through BROTHERLY-KINDNESS we answer the call of SHARING

Through LOVE we answer the call of SPIRITUAL MATURITY

We are **building** upon each one of these qualities by answering the call

Today we are wrapping up this series but we will see that in the text this is a continual cycle beginning with faith.

Last week we learned of *philadelphia*, brotherly kindness/love

This week we are focusing on *agape*, unconditional love that only God can give

This is the Calling of Spiritual Maturity.

We cannot claim to love God and not love people. If we claim to be Christians, God dwells in us and through us, allowing us to exhibit unconditional love.

Love is the most used yet misunderstood word.

ILLUSTRATE = I love ice cream, I love You...big difference.

Love is misunderstood because as humans, we struggle with understanding the attribute that God shows toward His Son Jesus, agape love. God's expression of undying, unconditional love is a mystery.

This expression (love-*agape*) is used 19 times in 15 verses.

The Apostle John wrote this book to the churches to defend the Gospel of Jesus late in his life (early A.D. 90). The churches began to allow false teachings of philosophy, such as Plato, to take the place of Holy Divine Scripture. The teachers were not denying Christ as the Savior, they were denying Christ as fully man while fulfilling His earthly ministry. John is showing how Jesus Christ, the perfect man, loved in the power of the Father. This is the same power we as Christians have when we live in the Holy Spirit. This supernatural power allows us to love in ways that humans can't.

Let's READ 1 John 4:7 – 21

If we are to grow in Love by accepting the calling of Spiritual Maturity we see four essentials of active love in these verses from the Apostle John.

First we see the

1. Active Love is Displayed through Christ v. 7 - 10

Hebrews 2:16-18

For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Hebrews 9:1-28 helps the believer understand the work of Jesus blood on the Cross.

²⁴*For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;*

²⁵*nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own.*

²⁶*Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and*

after this comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

The Calling of Spiritual Maturity

February 21

1. Active Love is Displayed through Christ v. 7 - 10

Nothing we can do can make God love us more,
Nothing we can do can make God love us less.

Jesus Christ's love is displayed no matter how the crowd or individual acts. This is unconditional-active love. This is the love He took to the Cross to save the world from eternal separation from God the Father.

Propitiation is an interesting word.

-It is used in an earlier verse in Chapter 2:1-2 as Christ's love on the cross wiped out the sins of the world:

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

-Hebrews chapters 2 & 9 help us understand the meaning of propitiation as it refers to the "MERCY SEAT"

Define Mercy Seat

Ark of the Covenant > wooden chest covered in gold > inside was a pot of manna, 2 stone tablets of the 10 Commandments, Aaron's staff > outside there were cherubim carved (human-like winged statue that represents God's messengers > the gold lid (which symbolized the presence of God) was called the "MERCY SEAT"

Once a year the high priest would sprinkle the blood of a bull and goat on the mercy seat as a symbol of the payment for the sins of the Jewish nation.

Jesus became that propitiation for Israel's sin and the world's sin.

The blood sprinkled on the Cross became the mercy seat.

If we are going to love like Jesus loved, we must love sacrificially. This is the active love displayed through Christ.

APPLICATION:

Acknowledge that you cannot love the way Christ loves.

Full of forgiveness and grace.

-Such a love that casts shortcomings as far as the east is from the west.

-Such a love that forgives and forgets

-Such a love that forgives no matter how many offenses are accrued

This love is found only in the working of Jesus Christ through His disciple being fully devoted to His calling and devotion to see the world the way He sees it...savable.

Active Love is:

1. Displayed through Christ v. 7-10

2. Displayed through Christians v. 11-12

ILLUSTRATE:

One ingenious teenager, tired of reading bedtime stories to his little sister, decided to record several of her favorite stories on tape. He told her, "now you can hear your stories anytime you want. Isn't that great?" She looked at the machine for a moment and then replied, "No. It hasn't got a lap."

Source unknown

APPLICATION:

This world needs to touch us.

This world needs to hear us.

This world needs to see us.

Why?

*We are Christ in this world.

Just like the little sister, the world longs the personal touch of the family. Let us help people become members of God's family through love.

The Calling of Spiritual Maturity

February 21

Active love is:

2. Displayed through Christians v. 11-16; 20-21

Christians are vessels whose job is to shine the light, love of God with each other and the world. No matter who Jesus came in contact with He displayed love in an active way and explained to us in the parable of the Good Samaritan to do the same thing.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, out of the Gospel of Luke, we see five distinct marks in a person's life that possess unconditional-active love:

Let's read Luke 10:29 – 37

- No prejudice
- Places aside safety concerns
- Taps into emotional bank
- No regard for time
- No regard for monetary cost

So what are the actions of a Christian's love?

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

- Suffers Long = Patient > able to persevere calmly
- Kind = having a generous, warm, compassionate nature
- Does not envy = wanting something that someone else has
- Does not parade itself = brag
- Is not puffed up = pride
- Does not behave rudely = self-centered
- Does not seek its own = selfish
- Is not provoked = easily aggravated
- Thinks no evil = sins of the mind
- Does not rejoice in iniquity = celebrate others sin
- Rejoices in truth = looks for truth to acknowledge
- Bears all things = advocate for others
- Believes all things = avoid skepticism
- Hopes all things = wants the best in every situation
- Endures all things = willing to stick it out to the end...no matter what
- Never fails = is always successful!!!

Love is action and love is personal

Only by living a sacrificial life can we love this world unconditionally.

DISCUSS:

The actions of love from 1 Corinthians 13 and share how we must release our own grip on our life in order for God to allow us to love the way He demands.

...EXAMPLE: *believes all things* = how many of us approach people with a skeptical heart rather than a willing, loving heart?

ILLUSTRATE:

We can't love on our own; we must allow the Holy Spirit of God to permeate our lives.

People are faced with some terrible consequences from sin.

It is impossible to love the way Jesus loves without His spirit.

-Joseph in Egypt
Loves his brothers no matter what.

-Stephen being stoned
Loves the persecutors no matter what.

APPLICATION:

-Who has wronged you?

-Who do you find impossible to love?

We must give them over to the Lord.
Acts 7:60 = Lord forgive them, there is no way they understand what they are doing.

This love is our deliverance and confidence in the day of judgment.

The Calling of Spiritual Maturity

February 21

Active Love is:

1. Displayed through Christ v. 7-10
2. Displayed through Christians v. 11-16; 20-21
3. **Displayed through Confidence v. 17-19**

-Active love is CONFIDENT at judgment

*We will all sit at the judgment seat of God...

Matthew 16:27 = For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

An unforgiving heart will be judged. Christians are to love the way Jesus loves. All have fallen short of God glory and the standards of each other. The Lord's Prayer points to the believer to do one thing, forgive those who sin against us.

ILLUSTRATE = Stephen being stoned

His response > *Acts 7:60 = Lord forgive them, there is no way they understand what they are doing.*

When we love unconditionally, we are free of the fear of judgment.

-Active love is CONFIDENT in the Lord rather than having fear of this world

Perfect love casts out fear

2 Tim 1:7 = For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Perfect love will produce confidence to share the love of Jesus Christ without the fear of what the world thinks.

DISCUSS:

*Are you living in the spirit of timidity when it comes to loving out loud for Jesus?

*What is really holding you back from sharing Jesus Christ with everyone you come in contact with?

When we see through His eyes, we see the world as savable. This is what drives us as followers of Jesus.

Conclusion:

The calling of spiritual maturity comes through the Christians life of love. This love is active and unconditional. This love can't be hidden under a shade because this love shines bright on a hill. This is the love that points people to the Cross.

This love is seen in the life of Christ and is confidently displayed by the Christian who is sold out for their Lord Jesus.

Why sold out?

-So that they can expand the Kingdom of God and help others begin to answer the eight callings He desires them to answer. This begins with faith and reproduces in an active cycle of unconditional love.

For Others

Lord, let me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way,
That, even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for others.
Help me, in all the work I do,
Ever to be sincere and true,
And know that all I'd do for Thee,
Must needs be done for Others.
Let "self" be crucified and slain,
And buried deep, nor rise again;
And may all efforts be in vain,
Unless they be for Others.
And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heaven begun
May I forget the crown I've won,
While thinking still of Others.
Yes, Others, Lord, yes, Others.
Let this motto be;
Help me to live for Others,
That I may live with Thee.

Background Passage:

2 Peter 1 - 3

Lesson Passage:

2 Peter 1 - 3

Focal Verse:

2 Peter 1:5-7

Biblical Truth:

Christians are designed to be disciple-makers. Four truths are foundational in order to accept such a high responsibility of discipleship.

Lesson Outline:

1. Christians are encouraged to Know their Salvation v. 1: 3 - 9
2. Christians are encouraged to Know the Truth v. 2: 1 - 3
3. Christians are encouraged to Know the Future v. 3: 1 - 9
4. Christians are encouraged to Know the Present v. 3: 14 - 18

Prepared for Discipleship**February 28****Background & Introduction**

The Book of 2 Peter is a call for Christians to live out four truths in their daily walk. As we live the Christian life, we strive not only for the day we meet Jesus face-to-face, but also we strive to disciple other believers along the journey. This is a command from our Lord Jesus Christ recorded in Matthew 28:18-20.

This lesson discusses four truths about being prepared to disciple. Then we will transition into the three principles of discipleship that we learned about in our devotionals this week.

Peter is calling Christians to accept four truths in their daily walk:

1. Christians are encouraged to Know their Salvation v. 1: 3 - 9

READ 2 Peter 1:3-9

The Eight Callings are actions that are intentional by Christians. By living out these qualities, the Christian shows proof of their salvation.

So how can that be???

We will be **fruitful** in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, taking on His divine nature found in verse 4.

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

When Christians possess the divine nature of Christ, there is no doubting of salvation.

Why should we be walking in these 8 qualities?

V. 8 & 9

⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

-For fruitfulness = being able to lead others to Christ and live in abundance

-Know the mind of Jesus Christ = a real relationship with the Lord

How? Continue in the actions

Peter is calling us to know our salvation is complete. In knowing comes action. In action comes knowing.

Do you know that you know you have answered the calling of salvation for your life?

*We can begin to disciple when we know our salvation is concrete.

APPLICATION:

When reading Scripture ask these questions:

Who?

Who wrote the book?
Who is it intended for?

What?

What is the purpose statement or theme verse in the text?

When?

When was the text written?

Where?

Where was the text written (Jerusalem, Rome, Canaan, etc)?

Why?

Why was the book/letter written (as a response to something, as encouragement for someone, for information only, etc)

How?

How have the teachings of the book been preserved through the ages traditionally?

Prepared for Discipleship

February 28

2. Christians are encouraged to Know the Truth v. 2: 1 - 3

BACKGROUND to this section...

Peter just talked about the eye witness accounts and how the Gospels were written by qualified men.

READ 2 Peter 2:1-3

*In a day when information can be distorted at the blink of an eye, we must know where we stand in Scripture.

The only way we know the truth and maintain a biblical worldview is by actually studying Scripture.

ILLUSTRATION = (altered from dialog from A Few Good Men, 1992)

world - You all want answers?

humans - We think we're entitled to them.

world - You all want answers?

humans - We want the truth!

world - You all can't handle the truth!

Satan and the world would have us believe that the truth is too hard to understand. People in this world desire to know the truth of existence and eternity.

The Christian response = we know the truth and can handle it wisely. No matter what argument Satan and this world throws at you Christian, stand up and take hold of the truth! Show this world that the answers to life are found clearly in Scripture.

*In Deuteronomy 6, we are commanded by God to study Scripture. Many times we teach life lessons from the overflow of what we know, and we are able to bring people to the light by our verbal witness to the truth in Scripture.

Why are we encouraged to KNOW Scripture?

To combat the false prophets and heresies whose goal is to water down the truth, diverting babes in Christ away from the task of winning the world for Christ.

How do we know Scripture?

Read every day.

Get to reading your Bible daily.

APPLICATION = When you read a book or letter, do you read aimlessly?

-NO, you read from context.

Understand where the text is coming from, where it is, and where it is going.

The Bible will mean so much more to you when you study the truth from the context by asking the questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how.

Pray and ask God to open your eyes so that you can see the truth He has planned to reveal to you. Psalm 119:18

APPLICATION:

Are your eyes fixed on the fact that Jesus is coming again?

Don't be surprised like the 1st Century was surprised.

Be like Simeon who was anticipating Christ's coming. (Luke 2:25-35)

ILLUSTRATE:

-Jesus is coming back at any moment, in the blink of an eye

-We do not get a second chance to share the Gospel

-Those that are lost do not get a second chance at eternal joy

FACTS:

-There are 1,845 references to Christ's second coming in the Old Testament

-17 OT books give it prominence

-In the NT there are 318 references to the second Coming of Christ

-An amazing 1 out of every 30 verses references 2nd Coming
-23 of the 27 New Testament books refer to this coming event

OTHER FACT...

If Jesus doesn't return in time, EVERYONE DIES AT SOME POINT.

*Who would you witness to today if you knew this was their last day to accept Christ as their Savior?

Prepared for Discipleship

February 28

3. Christians are encouraged to Know the Future v. 3: 1 - 9

READ 2 Peter 3:1-9

This is the PURPOSE of Peter's letter to the churches!

*Remember the last point (know WHY the author writes)

There isn't much teaching on the 2nd Coming of Christ anymore.

Olive is an exception, but across the church world, it is rare.

The Gospel is not complete unless you share the fact that Jesus Christ is Coming again at any moment.

In the worlds eyes...

-Sharing the Gospel as History is still Acceptable

-Sharing the Gospel as Prophecy is Lunacy

This world will think you are crazy if you begin teaching that Jesus Christ is coming again to take us home for eternity. Christian, speak the truth in love.

This acrostic assures us of Christ's Second Coming & helps us keep watch.

Acrostic...S-E-C-O-N-D

S...Sudden.

Matthew 24:27 = *For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

E...Essential.

John 14:2 - 3 = *In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.*

C...Comprehensive.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 - 17 = *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.*

O...Obvious.

Matthew 24:40 = *Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.*

N...No One Knows When.

Matthew 24:36 = *But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*

D...Doubters

2 Peter 3: 3 - 4 = *Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."*

Q = Why should we know the future?

A = This completes the Gospel message

How do we place our mind on the future?

Ask God to help remind you daily of the urgency of the Gospel v. 9

⁹*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

DISCUSSION:

Self-examination

Will you be found...

-In Peace

-Spotless

-Blameless

-Enduring the race

*Is there anything you need to give up trying and hand over to Jesus so that you can disciple?

How are you

Growing in...

-Grace

-Knowledge of Jesus

*Do we see people differently?

OR

Are we still blaming and condemning the world for its shortcomings?

Prepared for Discipleship

February 28

1. Christians are encouraged to Know their Salvation v. 1: 3 - 9
2. Christians are encouraged to Know the Truth v. 2: 1 - 3
3. Christians are encouraged to Know the Future v. 3: 1 - 9

When we are prepared to disciple, Peter shows that...

4. Christians are encouraged to Know the Present v. 3: 14 – 18

READ 2 Peter 3:14-18

We must at any moment know that we are ready to see our Lord.

What does Paul say about finishing faithful...

2 Timothy 4:7

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Why do we know the present?

So that we can stand in peace and blameless before God and men

How do we know our present?

Acting out with diligence the qualities of a Christian will help us to perform a self examination of spiritual growth and knowledge.

Christian, are you ready to disciple?

YES!

Discuss the three tiers of discipleship found in Scripture:

Group = Basic Bible study, ministry, fellowship, evangelism

2-3 = Deeper Bible Study, closer fellowship, accountability

1 on 1 = life coaching toward reproduction

**Discipleship is:
Pouring into others
what Jesus has poured
into you.**

**There is no special
formula or workbook.**

**Making disciples
requires love for the
Father, love for the
neighbor, and time.**

PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP:

Think of a funnel... The best results come out in the end.

***Group = Basic Bible study, ministry, fellowship, evangelism**

-70 sent = Luke 10:1 - 10:24 (as result of them following Him)

¹Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

²And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

²⁰"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

RESULT = salvation confirmed and the Word spread

-12 sent = Luke 9:1-62 (as a result of them following Him)

⁶Departing, they began going throughout the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere. ¹⁰When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing.

RESULT = ministry fulfilled and the Word spread

***2 to 4 = Deeper Bible Study, closer fellowship, accountability**

-Jesus, Peter, James, John = Mark 5:36-38, 9:1-3, 13:2-4, 14:32-34

Mark 14:38 "Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

RESULT = close group that changed the world

-Barnabas and Paul = Acts 13

²While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

³Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. ⁵When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

RESULT = close group that changed the world

***1 on 1 = life coaching toward reproduction**

-Jesus and Peter = Mark 16 focus v. 7 then Peter in Acts 2 answering the specific mission

⁷"But go, tell His disciples **and Peter**, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.'"

RESULT = a clear strategy for discipling that changed the world

-Paul and Timothy = Acts 16:1-13

¹Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, ²and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him...

RESULT = a clear strategy for discipling that changed the world

How can we make a resolution to be an active part of the discipleship process this year?

-Pray and seek the Lord on who you will disciple

-Act on the vision that God gives

-Set clear goals for yourself and the group (small or large)

-Meet weekly

-Read Scripture together

-Journal and share what God is doing in your lives

-Pray together

-Hold each other accountable

-Answer the questions:

Who will I partner with?

What am I attempting to accomplish?

When will we meet?

Where will we meet?

Why am I partnering for discipleship?

How will we move from point A to Z this year?

-Assess the relationship monthly (calendar the date you will assess)

Our prayer is that all of us will see that we are called to obey the command Jesus Christ sent forth and that the command is simple.

Making disciples requires love for the Father, love for the neighbor, and time.

