

TELOS

Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.

"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"

Col. 1:28

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Matthew 18

Relationships are what life is all about. Relationships, not achievements, not acquisition of things, are what really matter in life. At the end of the day, it will all come down to your position with your Maker and fellowman.

I believe one of the greatest threats to relationships is our busyness. We think we don't have time to truly invest in this most important area of life. Rick Warren, in his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, says the greatest gift you can give someone is your time. When we give someone our time, we give them a part of our life.

Cultivating relationships is hard work and requires humility. Pride builds walls between people and destroys relationships like nothing else can. I have, as I am sure we all have, seen the effects of unforgiveness on a person's life. I pray that I will not let unforgiveness and bitterness take root in my life.

As I have worked through this chapter, I am reminded of my own struggle with pride; of my need to be admonished and to admonish; and of my need to extend, as well as accept, forgiveness. In humility, I long to heed the instructions Jesus so adequately laid out for us.

There are many people I have come to love who are still outside the fold and have never experienced the riches of His grace. I will have to invest time, and maybe even swallow some pride, to see them brought into the fold. People are precious to me. It has been said that you are the only Bible some people will ever read. What kind of message are they receiving?

Let us remember that, ultimately, our relationship with God, family, church and fellowman is what will count for eternity.

FOLLOW ME

Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus

Kingdom Principle #3:

Jesus helps me embrace repentance as an initial event that becomes a life-long process of following Him.

Memory Verse:

He called a little child and had him stand among them. ³ And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:2-4

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

Monday

Humility, the Benchmark of a Kingdom Life - Matthew 18:1-9

HUMILITY

I heard about the pastor who was voted the most humble pastor in America. And the congregation gave him a medal that said, "To the most humble pastor in America." They took it away from him on Sunday because he wore it.

(The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart by Charles R. Swindoll p. 278)

Out of his wisdom Robert Morrison of China wrote, "The great fault, I think, in our mission is that no one likes to be second." The world has yet to see what could happen if everyone lost the desire to get the glory. Wouldn't it be a marvelous place if nobody cared who got the credit? *(Spiritual Leadership by J.Oswald Sanders in The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart by Charles R. Swindoll p. 279)*

Passage Preview

Pride and jockeying for position invades the hearts of the disciples. Jesus directs their attention to a quality of life modeled by children: HUMILITY. Jesus then moves on to motivate the disciples to take drastic action when they are - trapped in the grip of sin.

Key Words

- Humble: To make low, lacking pride, unpretentious, unassuming.
- Woe: Trouble, affliction, or misery.

Read Matthew 18:1-9

¹ *At that time, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"*

² *He called a little child and had him stand among them. ³ And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

⁵ *"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. ⁶ But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.*

⁷ *"Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! ⁸ If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.*

1. What stood out to you in these verses? Why?

SOME GUIDELINES FOR MAINTAINING BALANCE

1. Be faithful in “little things.”
2. When given a job, do it well, with all your heart, and without *expecting* public recognition; but when you get it, accept it gratefully. Be encouraged.
3. Let others promote your capabilities and accomplishments.
4. Demonstrate your capabilities by your “work” rather than your “words.”
5. Honor others above yourself.
6. Don’t put yourself down but don’t be a self-promoter.
7. When you do get opportunities for public visibility, thank God for the opportunity; do your best but honor God.
8. Be on guard against extreme attitudes and actions.

Note: Insecurity is often the root of self-promotion. (*The Measure of a Christian* by Gene A. Getz p. 17)

Someone has accurately defined humility as “that grace that, when you know you have it, you’ve lost it!” It has well been said, “True humility is not thinking meanly of one’s self; it is not thinking of one’s self at all.”

True humility means knowing yourself, accepting yourself, and being yourself –your *best* self – to the glory of God. It means avoiding two extremes: thinking *less* of yourself than you ought to (as did Moses when God called him, Ex. 3:11 ff), or thinking *more* of yourself than you ought to (Rom. 12:3). The truly humble person does not deny the gifts God has given him, but uses them to the glory of God. (*Be Loyal* by Warren W. Wiersbe p.124 & 125)

2. What does it mean to humble oneself and become like a child? How can you do this?
3. **Kingdom Question:** Describe what kind of church is created when followers become humble, real, and transparent.
4. Is there a sin in your life that needs drastic action? What is it and who can hold you accountable for it?

Summary

Pride of position is a recipe for destruction in developing safe kingdom communities. Followers of Christ must not derive their identity from their position and power in the Church. The fragrance of humility creates the aroma of the life of Christ in the Church.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, in our daily life, cause us to know ourselves, accept ourselves, and be ourselves, to the glory of God. In the name of our great example, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Tuesday

God’s Love Pursues Lost Sheep - Matthew 18:10-14

Passage Preview

The Chief Shepherd, God the Father, passionately cares for His sheep. If one wanders off, God doesn’t sit idly by; He pursues the lost sheep until it is back in the fold.

This parable is different from the parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15. The key to this parable is the word *save*. In Luke 15 the emphasis is upon *finding* the lost, and in Matthew 18 it is upon *saving* the lost. (*Thru the Bible* by J. Vernon McGee, Vol. IV p. 100)

God is graciously concerned, not only for his flock in general, but for every lamb, or sheep, that belongs to it. (*The Matthew Henry Commentary* p. 1295)

SEEKING THE LOST

(William A. Ogden)

Seeking the lost – yes, kindly entreating

Wanderers on the mountain astray;
“Come unto Me,” His message repeating,

Words of the Master speaking today

Seeking the lost – and pointing to Jesus

Souls that are weak and hearts that are sore,

Leading them forth in ways of salvation,

Showing the path to life evermore.

Thus I would go on missions of mercy,

Following Christ from day unto day,

Cheering the faint and raising the fallen,

Pointing the lost to Jesus, the Way.

Chorus:

Going afar upon the mountain

Bringing the Wand’rer back again,

Into the fold of my Redeemer,

Jesus, the Lamb for sinners slain.

Key Words

- Happier: More excited, thrilled.

Read Matthew 18:10-14

¹⁰ “See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

¹² “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

1. What idea stood out to you? Why?

2. Describe the kind of shepherd/leader Jesus is.

3. Why do you think God takes such delight in finding lost sheep?

4. **Kingdom Question:** As one of God’s sheep, what causes you to wander away from your loving Shepherd? What brings you back?

Summary

God loves me as an individual. He knows me by name, is aware of my wanderings and is always pursuing restoration in my relationship with Him.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to be concerned about those who wander away from the fold. Remind me of someone who is not close to you and use me to bring that one back. In Jesus name, Amen.

Wednesday

Restoring Relationships in God's Family - Matthew 18:15-20

Passage Preview

Life is essentially relational. The Bible is a book about cultivating the relational harmony and intimacy experienced by the Trinity. This passage lays out the ground rules for restoring relational harmony when relational breakdown has occurred.

Key Words

- Fault: Shortcoming, failing, error, or mistake.

Read Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Keep the matter private. Approach the person who sinned and speak with him alone. It is possible that he does not even realize what he has done. Or, even if he did it deliberately, your own attitude of submission and love will help him to repent and apologize. Above all else, go to him with the idea of winning your brother, not winning an argument. It is possible to win the argument and lose your brother. (*Be Loyal* by Warren W. Wiersbe p. 127)

Many people use this Scripture verse [Matthew 18:15] in a different attitude from the one Jesus was intending. If they have been hurt, they will go and confront the offender in a spirit of revenge and anger. They use this verse as justification to condemn the one who has hurt them. But they are missing the whole reason Jesus instructed us to go to one another. It is not for condemnation but for reconciliation. He does not want us to tell our brother how rotten he has been to us. We are to go to remove the breach preventing the restoration of our relationship. (*The Bait of Satan* by John Bevere p. 181)

1. What idea stood out to you? Why?
2. In the space below write down the steps you should follow to restore a relationship when someone sins against you.
3. Why is it so critical to follow this process rather than gossiping to someone else about how you've been offended?

4. **Kingdom Question:** Since relational unity is a benchmark of a safe kingdom community, what should you do when someone tells you how they've been sinned against?

Summary

Relational unity characterizes the Trinity. Followers of Christ need to be intentional about maintaining close relationships. Is there a brother or sister in the Lord you are separated from? Take the initiative to restore the relationship.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, you told us that offenses would come. We need help daily in maintaining healthy relationships. Bring to mind those relationships that need restoring and help us to take the initiative to seek restoration. In Jesus' name and for His sake, Amen.

Thursday

Forgiveness: Key Characteristic of Christ-followers -

Matthew 18:21-35

Passage Preview

"Forgive your brother from your heart." Kingdom disciples practice a complete and inexhaustible forgiveness in their relationships. Jesus sets a high standard in this passage, as relational harmony and intimacy are the fragrance of His life displayed in His followers.

Key Words

- Forgive: Cancel out, release, set free.
- Mercy: Compassion, goodwill, kindness, tender heartedness.
- Heart: Here refers to the whole person; the soul, emotions, and the will.

Read Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what

T.S. Kendall has written a great book entitled *Total Forgiveness*. If you are tempted to hold a grudge, point a finger and remember pain, you might find this book helpful. Let me wet your appetite with a few quotes.

“The ultimate proof of total forgiveness takes place when we sincerely petition the Father to let those who have hurt us off the hook- even if they have not only hurt us, but also those close to us.”
Page 4

“Totally forgiving someone doesn’t necessarily mean that we will want to spend our vacation with them, but it does mean that we release the bitterness in our hearts concerning what they have done.”
Page 8

“Total forgiveness is a choice. It is not a feeling- at least at first- but is rather an act of the will.”
Page 21

“Total forgiveness involves an additional element: praying for God’s blessings to rain on the lives of your offenders.”
Page 64

“Making a choice to continue in unforgiveness shows that we aren’t sufficiently grateful for God’s forgiveness of our own sins.”
Page 85

“When we totally forgive someone, we too refuse to keep a record of their wrongs.”
Page 126

“It is almost impossible to say which comes first- forgiving others so you will be able to forgive yourself, or forgiving yourself so you will be able to forgive others. But it is not *total* forgiveness until both are equally true.”
Page 141

“Forgiveness is not total forgiveness until we bless our enemies- and pray for them to be blessed.”
Page 182

you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ *His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’*

³⁰ *But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.* ³¹ *When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.*

³² *Then the master called the servant in ‘You wicked servant.’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’* ³³ *Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’* ³⁴ *In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*

³⁵ *This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”*

1. What idea stood out to you? Why?
2. What is the key idea Jesus is trying to communicate in this passage?
3. **Kingdom Question:** Kingdom disciples forgive from the heart. What enables us to forgive deeply from the heart?

Is there a relationship that could be restored if you were really able to forgive someone? Who is that? What would God have you do?

Summary

Was forgiveness modeled in your family? We tend to carry previous family patterns into our own family. Are you setting a generational pattern by modeling forgiveness in your family?

PRAYER

Lord, you taught us that forgiveness is not an option. Through your life on earth you modeled forgiveness. Help us to carry that pattern through our journey to Eternity. Help us to experience the joy and freedom of total forgiveness. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Friday

“The Mystery of The Kingdom”

Read Chapter 17 in the Follow Me Book

Introduction

Value. It's a tricky thing, isn't it? What's worth thousands to a sports card collector in Chicago isn't worth a nickel to someone starving to death in Africa. Recognizing something's worth involves a number of factors. Principles such as understanding, need, appreciation, and circumstances all influence value.

1. If it's true that God's kingdom is like finding a hidden treasure (Matthew 13:44-45), what is it that keeps so many people from recognizing its true value?
2. At what point had Jerry (p. 144ff) become a Christian? Explain your answer.
3. The author makes quite a point of why Jesus spoke to people in parables and why some people understood and others didn't. What did he say?
4. Describe the four types of soil as explained on pages 152-53.

These TELOS materials have been adapted with permission from the "Follow Me" discipleship Curriculum produced by North Shore Baptist Church in Bothell, WA and based on the book Follow Me by Jan David Hettinga and the gospel of Matthew.

This week's editor:
John Kehler

5. Think through the events and activities of this past week. Based on how you've been receiving and dealing with things, explain which of the four soils best represents your heart right now and why.

Summary

It is not the clarity of the message but rather the receptivity of the heart. Jesus' use of parables was intended to reach those whose ears were able to hear because their hearts were receptive. Matthew 13:9 "He who has ears, let him hear."

Kingdom Principle

Complete Kingdom Principle #3:

_____ me _____ as an
_____ that _____ a _____ - _____
_____ of _____.

Please spend time praying for the Pastor as he prepares to preach this Sunday.

- ⇒ If you have any comments or questions about TELOS please direct them to Pastor Ken at the church office:
phone: 773-4433 or email: ken.trailview@sasktel.net

The mission of TELOS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. TELOS is one component of our strategy at Trailview of living out our call to become a "community of servants who live to fulfill the Great Commission.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, International Bible Society.

Kingdom Principle #3:

Jesus helps me embrace repentance as an initial event that becomes a life-long process of following Him.

Memory Verse:

He called a little child and had him stand among them. ³ And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:2-4