

Cedar Grove Discipleship Training
May 5, 2013
6:30 PM

“The Blessing of Playing Primarily to an Audience of One”

The Thesis: The calling to follow Jesus in life is primarily a spiritual call to be with the Lord Jesus, to walk with Him and work with Him. God holds each one of us responsible to respond to Him. He desires that we lead in concert with His revealed **D**_____, **W**_____, and **P**_____.

Acceptance of this responsibility brings to us inner resources, imparted to us by the Holy Spirit; things we couldn't possibly do for ourselves by our best human efforts. He gives us His **A**_____ and **A**_____ to give minister His grace to one another in the local church.

People who walk with Jesus and seek to be beneficial to others in His kingdom are constantly looking to **G**_____ **A**_____ to others what they have been given by the Lord in their time alone with Him.

Matthew 10:7 – 10 *“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.** Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belt; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.”* (Emphasis mine)

Matthew 10:24 – 28 *“A student is not above his teacher, nor is a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household! So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. **What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.** Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”* (Emphasis mine)

So many of God's people tend to miss this powerful spiritual principle of playing primarily to an audience of One as an ongoing lifestyle. It is so easy to get caught up in the lives of people, helping them, and the good things that we do to serve the Lord. What tends to happen over time is we can actually tend to lose our **F**_____, what our **P**_____ really is in life.

Our primary calling and therefore, focus must always be to please the Lord Jesus in life, to seek Him and to experience His heart and life living in our hearts and lives. We aren't asked to focus on the needs of people, the approval of people, nor to seek to do any ministry roles first.

Matthew 6:33 *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you as well.”*

What this means is that **I** _____ demands that we will choose to walk through life longing for deepening **I** _____ with **G** _____, to reach up like a little child, would take hold of his parent's face, and in prayer to **T** _____ His **F** _____ toward us.

Jeremiah 29:11, 12 contains an often quoted promise by people who are “into the prophetic,” as it relates to the followers of Jesus in the kingdom of God. The promise is given at a time of devastation and heartache. God promises to fulfill His plans to prosper His people, to give them a hope and a future. However, one rarely if ever hears the condition to the promises quoted by the prophetic person. Jeremiah writes in verses 13, 14a; *“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord.”*

--The promise of His prosperity is for those who choose to be **P** _____ for God, so that we might **L** _____ people to Jesus from the foundation stone of relational intimacy we have found with Christ Jesus personally.

The Apostle Paul addressed this issue of playing primarily to an audience of One when he wrote to the Galatian believers, Galatians 1:11, 12, 15 – 17:

*“I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, **I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia** and later returned to Damascus.”* (Emphasis mine)

Some Indispensable Requirements:

If we would be people who play primarily to an audience of One there are some things we are going to have to **C** _____ to **D** _____:

- Be a person of **W** _____
- Be a person of spiritual desire to know Him more intimately, cultivating **P** _____, being willing to live with **H** _____ **D** _____!
- Engaging in personal **S** _____ **D** _____

- 1.) Alone with Him in the Scriptures daily
- 2.) Two-way prayer conversations daily
- 3.) Fasting in prayer regularly

You will need a clear sense of the Spirit of God's personal **C** _____ in your life, that you are where He wants you to be and that you are doing what He wants you to be doing in His kingdom of the heart.

You must choose to be in possession of a God-inspired **V** _____ of His good, pleasing, and perfect will for your life as you seek to be a vehicle through whom He can and will work to help others. God has for every person in His kingdom, a preferable future, which He has placed in

each person's heart and soul, regarding how He believes that your life can be of spiritual benefit to others. Call it a personal mission statement. It's your sweet ministry spot in His church family here at Cedar Grove!

God inspired vision is never about the status quo
God inspired vision is never contingent on the past
God inspired vision is never dependent on what humans can or cannot do

God inspired vision is about changed lives
God inspired vision is about the lost, irreligious, and the prodigals coming home
God inspired vision is only imparted in an atmosphere of faith

Taught By the Lord in the School of Solitude:

The person whom God has chosen to give spiritual leadership in the body of Christ must be **T** _____ of the Lord, learning to know Him and the deep **L** _____ of His heart. The provisions for doing His work of advancing His kingdom flow out of a deepening **R** _____ **I** _____ with Him.

Most of God's anointed leaders were taken into desert experiences of life;

Moses
The children of Israel
David
Elijah
John the Baptist
Jesus
And in our lesson tonight we will see Paul experienced it too

In the desert experiences of life, when we walk through difficulty and darkness, it will seem as though God is silent and the heavens are brass. He will draw us away from our propensity to trust in our human abilities into His "School of Solitude."

Jesus told His disciples in the Scripture that we read earlier from Matthew 10, to be careful to **L** _____ and **S** _____ to hear His voice when we walk in days of **D** _____. When God uses difficulty and darkness to condition our hearts and ears to hear His whispers and directions there are significant questions being asked for which we need good answers.

- a.) From whom do we take primary direction in the ministry acts that we do for others?
- b.) Where do we turn first for support and strength?
- c.) Where or to whom do we run when our hearts ache?

The school of solitude, God's ways with us in the desert experiences of life, come "upon us" from a variety of sources:

- a.) God's direct **L** _____

- b.) They can be S _____ -I _____
- c.) They can be a result of the E _____ S _____
- d.) They can be a result of feeling the S _____ of O _____, that is those whom we love dearly, and we feel their heartache personally (see II Corinthians 11:28, 29)
- e.) They can be a result of being W _____, (See Psalm 55:12 – 14)

Significant Lessons We Can Only Learn in Solitude:

#1. He teaches us about the L _____ of our H _____.

#2. He teaches us that when everything else is stripped away from us, H _____ is E _____.

#3. He teaches us to walk with Him alone, to hear and to heed Him, listening for His leadership, to K _____ O _____ so that we can hear Him. We learn how much He wants us to be teachable and softhearted when we are alone and quiet when we walk in the darkness!

--Jesus told us to listen when we are in the darkness. He told us to simply not speak, or to read books on the darkness, or to attend “How to Walk Through the Darkness” Seminars.

#4. He teaches us the profound principle: At any point I choose to D _____ M _____ God is not my D _____.

#5. He teaches us to create an I _____ S _____ of the heart

Psalm 63:1 – 8

--Desperate and passionate Two-way prayer conversations

#6. He teaches us the blessing of longing for the P _____ He gives us, to know and walk in all of H _____ W _____.

#7. He teaches us the beauty of the truth that what He is really after in every one of us is the F _____ of the L _____ of J _____ in our lives!

Galatians 4:19

II Corinthians 1:8 – 12

Learning to Recognize the Voice of the Lord

Psalms 25:12 – 14

John 10:27

John 14:18 – 21

The various ways, which Scripture clearly teaches us that we may hear the Voice of the Lord today:

1. He speaks through **S**_____ texts, passages, and correct interpretation, generally done in the context of the community of faith.
 2. He speaks through **W**_____ and inner **I**_____
 3. He speaks through **D**_____ and **V**_____
 4. He speaks through **P**_____, **H**_____, and **S**_____ **S**_____
 5. He speaks through the **R**_____, **G**_____ of the Holy Spirit – Pastors, Teachers, Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues, Words of wisdom, Words of knowledge, Exhortation.
 6. He speaks through the imperfect gift of **P**_____
- I Thessalonians 5:19 – 21
- I Corinthians 14:29 – 32
7. He speaks through the creation of **H**_____ **D**_____
 8. He speaks through **N**_____

Testing the Words We Hear:

1. Does this word agree with the revealed person and will of God as found in the Scriptures?
2. Does this word agree with the revealed nature of God?
3. Does this word bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
4. Does it pass the testing of the body of Christ, other listeners?
5. Does it pass the principle of resonance?

Concluding Thoughts: