

A LIFE WELL LIVED: LIVING FOR THE LORD'S “WELL DONE”

Part Three: Journey Class, February 21,2021, by
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1

WEEK TWO REVIEW

- Becoming More Christ-Like
- Love Your Neighbors

2

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

- As Christians, we are described as the people of God, a chosen people, a holy nation and a royal priesthood (1 Pet.2:9)
- Just as each of us has one body with many members, in Christ we form one body and each member belongs to all the others (Rom.12:4-5)
- We are together the light of the world for all to see (Matt.5:14)

3

LIVING IN COMMUNITY-continued

- What this can look like--Acts 2:42-47
 - “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together, and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need...

4

LIVING IN COMMUNITY-continued

- What this can look like--Acts 2:42-47--continued
 - ... “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

5

LIVING IN COMMUNITY-continued

- How do we achieve true community?
 - Affirming one another
 - Sharing with one another
 - Serving one another
 - (From Gospel In Life by Tim Keller)

6

WISDOM

- Three types to consider
 - Human wisdom
 - Spiritual wisdom
 - Wisdom of Proverbs

7

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM

- Human wisdom combines knowledge, experience and good judgment
- Spiritual wisdom filters human wisdom through the purifying lens of God's Word
- Spiritual wisdom belongs to God alone (Job 12:13)
- James 3:17 - Attributes of spiritual wisdom--to be pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere

8

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM

- What do these attributes of spiritual wisdom remind us of?
 - They appear throughout Christ's ministry
 - The Beatitudes--Matt. 5:1-12--The following groups will be blessed:
 - The poor in spirit will receive the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Those who mourn will be comforted

9

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM

- The Beatitudes--Matt. 5:1-12--The following groups will be blessed--continued
 - The meek will inherit the earth
 - Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled
 - The merciful will be shown mercy

10

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM

- The Beatitudes--Matt. 5:1-12--The following groups will be blessed--continued
 - The pure in heart will see God
 - The peacemakers will be called the children of God
 - Those who are persecuted because of righteousness will receive the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Those who are persecuted because of Jesus will be rewarded greatly in Heaven

11

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM-continued

- Spiritual wisdom is an important dimension of a well-lived life --Colossians 1:9-12
- "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: ...

12

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM-continued

- Col.1:9-12--continued
 - ...”bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light.”

13

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM-continued

- God gives it freely to us if we ask (James 1:5)
- Spiritual wisdom turns the world upside down (1 Cor.1:18-31)
 - The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but it is the power of God for the believer (v. 18)
 - God chose the “foolish” things to shame the wise (v. 27)

14

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM-continued

- Spiritual wisdom turns the world upside down (1 Cor.1:18-31)--continued
 - For believers, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God (v. 24)
 - Christ has become our righteousness, holiness and redemption (v. 30)

15

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM-continued

- Spiritual wisdom turns the world upside down (1 Cor.1:18-31)--continued
 - God entered human history as a helpless baby, paid our penalty for sin by dying to redeem us, and opened the door to eternal life for us
 - We did nothing
 - The concept of GRACE--God's undeserved love for us

16

SEEKING SPIRITUAL WISDOM- continued

- Many Biblical figures were granted spiritual wisdom including:
 - Solomon (1 Kings 3:7-12)
 - For discernment in administering justice
 - Stephen (Acts 6:10)
 - In proclaiming the Gospel
 - Paul (2 Pet.3:15)
 - In writing his N.T. letters
 - Jacob's son Joseph (Acts 7:10)
 - In becoming Pharaoh's designated deputy in Egypt

17

WISDOM OF PROVERBS

- Biblical wisdom is both spiritual and practical
- It takes insights obtained from knowledge of God's ways and applies them to our daily walk
- Prov. 1-3 focuses on this Biblical wisdom
- Where do we begin?
 - Prov. 1:7-- "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

18

WISDOM OF PROVERBS-continued

- “To Do” List-- Prov. 1-3:
 - Seek what is right, just and fair (1:3)
 - Seek prudence, knowledge and discretion (1:4)
 - Be careful who your friends are (2:12)
 - Accept godly discipline (3:11-12)
 - Give generously (3:27-8)
 - Honor the Lord with your finances (3:9)

19

WISDOM OF PROVERBS --continued

- “To Do” List-continued
 - Pray for insight and understanding (2:3)
 - Practice humility (3:34)
 - Seek a good name before God and man (3:4)
 - Shun evil (3:7)
 - Heed your parents’ teachings (1:8-9)
 - Resist temptation (1:10)

20

WISDOM OF PROVERBS--continued

- “To Do” List-continued:
 - Accept constructive criticism (3:11-12)
 - Practice love and faithfulness (3:3)
 - Seek to remain upright and blameless (3:21)
 - Preserve sound judgment and discernment (3:21)
 - Avoid accusing others falsely or plotting them harm (3:29-30)

21

ALLOW GOD TO DIRECT YOU

Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.”

22

REMEMBER:

- Developing spiritual wisdom is a lifelong pursuit
- Prayer is the most vital element
- Use your time wisely
- Be optimistic
- Seek advice from godly mentors
- Beware: the example of Solomon--a good start does not ensure a good ending (1 Kings 11:9-13)
 - Solomon loved many foreign women and they led him to worship their idols
 - His heart turned away from God

23

BECOMING A LEADER

- Are you a leader?
- Leadership roles are all around us
 - At work
 - At home
 - At church
 - In various community roles
 - Etc.

24

ARE YOU A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?

- THE GREAT COMMISSION--Matt. 28:19-20:

Jesus commands His disciples to “go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

- His last recorded statement as He ascended to Heaven

25



GO AND TEACH

Be Christ's
Ambassadors

26

AS CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

- In The Book on Leadership, John MacArthur writes:
 - “Every Christian is called to be a leader...because all of us are given a mandate to teach and influence others.”
- Biblical leadership is based on character rather than on status or position

27

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

- Matthew 20:25-28:
 - The mother of disciples James and John go to Jesus with them and asks for a special favor on their behalf
 - She asks whether her sons can sit on Jesus' right and left hands when He enters into His kingdom
 - He answers that the Father makes that decision not Him
 - The other ten disciples are indignant when they hear about this request

28

BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

- Matthew 20:25-28: Jesus responds to them:
 - “Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first, must be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.’”

29



TRUE LEADER -SHIP

Leading
through
service

30

SERVANT LEADERS

- John 13:14: “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”
- A leader’s heart should be characterized by service, sacrifice and selflessness
- We are stewards of those we lead and one day we will be called to give an account (Hebrews 13:17)

31

HUMAN LEADERS ARE NOT PERFECT

- Biblical leaders are no exception
 - Abraham lied about his marriage to Sarah out of fear--twice (Gen. 12:13, 20;2)
 - Moses had a fiery temper (Exod. 2, Numbers 20)
 - David committed adultery and murder (2 Sam.11)

32

LEADERS ARE NOT PERFECT--continued

- The disciples fled after Jesus was arrested (Matt. 26:56)
- Peter denied Christ three times (Matt. 26:69-74)
- We can learn from their mistakes

33

LEADERS ARE NOT PERFECT--continued

- Many Biblical leaders were even reluctant to lead
 - Moses--Exodus 3-4
 - Who am I to go before Pharaoh? (3:11)
 - What do I tell the Israelites? (3:13)
 - What if they don't believe me? (4:1)
 - I am slow of speech (4:10)
 - Please send someone else (4:13)

34

LEADERS ARE NOT PERFECT--continued

- Gideon tested God's call many times-- Judges 6-8
 - I am unqualified (6:15)
 - Give me a sign (6:17)
 - Give me more signs (6:37, 6:39)
 - 32,000 soldiers down to 300 (7:1-7)

35

LEADERS ARE NOT PERFECT--continued

- Jonah fled his call as a prophet--Jonah 1
 - He was angry when Nineveh repented--Jonah 4
- Jeremiah--I don't know how to speak and I'm too young (Jeremiah 1:6)/ Your message makes the people angry with me (Jer. 20:8)

36

LEADERS ARE NOT PERFECT--continued

- God uses reluctant leaders
- God uses imperfect leaders
- God can change them into faithful representatives
- God's plan always prevails

37

AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LEADER...

- Is prepared
- Lets God lead
- Is a team builder
- Is decisive yet flexible
- Never stops learning
- Is trustworthy
- Focuses on goals rather than obstacles

38

AN EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LEADER-contd.

- Is organized
- Celebrates successes
- Finishes what is started
- Is optimistic and enthusiastic
- Knows his/her limitations
- Leads by serving
- Never compromises the absolutes

39

NEXT WEEK:

1. Celebrating Milestones
2. Finishing Well
3. Putting This All Together

40