

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

Part Two: Journey Class, February 14, 2021, by  
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# WEEK ONE REVIEW

- Defining a life well lived
- Where do we find the answer
- Ecclesiastes: a roadmap for life
- Applying the roadmap in 2021
- Don't waste a day
- Conclusion: Seek and Love God and Embrace Life

# THE PERFECT MODEL: CHRIST

- Ecclesiastes focuses us on God at all times and in all circumstances
- Jesus provides the model of a perfect life for us to follow
- Our goal: strive to become more Christ-like



# WARNING

- It is a lifelong pursuit
- In this life it is an impossible standard
- Do not be discouraged: read Acts 1-7 for how the Holy Spirit totally changed and empowered the disciples
  - From fearful to courageous
  - From confused to insightful and focused
  - From limited language skills to speaking forcefully in many languages

# PRAY

- Jesus regularly spent private time praying to the Father and communing with Him
  - Luke 5:16: He would often slip away to the wilderness to pray
  - Matt. 14:23: He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray and when it was evening He was there alone

## PRAY-continued

- Luke 6:12--He went to the mountain to pray and spent the night in prayer
- Mark 1:35--Before dawn He went to a secluded place to pray





# OUR PRAYER GOALS

- Pray at any point during the day -- 1 Thess.5:18 --"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances"
- Pray for God to empower us and guide us
- Don't just recite words
- Quiet times are desirable when feasible
- The Lord's Prayer--focus first on God, then on us, then back to God

# TURN TO GOD IN OUR TIMES OF GREATEST NEED

- Jesus turned to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane  
--"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will but as You will" (Matt.26:39,42 and 44)
- And on the Cross
  - Father forgive them (Luke 23)
  - Why have You forsaken Me (Matt. 27 and Mark 15)
  - Into Your hands I commend My spirit (Luke 23)

# PRAY

In the garden



# IN OUR TIMES OF GREATEST NEED...

- Pray earnestly
- Pray that God's will prevails
- Know that God's plan may not be apparent to us
- Ask others to pray for you
- Head to God, not away

# HUMILITY

- Jesus exhibited the ultimate in humility by leaving His heavenly throne, coming to earth as a lowly baby, ministering to us and dying on the Cross for our sins
  - Philippians 2: 5-11--"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, ....

# HUMILITY

- Philippians 2:5-11--continued
  - ...“He humbled Himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross! Therefore God has highly exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him a name that is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...”
- OUR GOAL: Pray for greater humility and ask God for help on our problem areas

# SACRIFICIAL LOVE

- Jesus sacrificed all to save us from our sins (Phil. 2:5-11 again)
- Love your neighbor as yourself

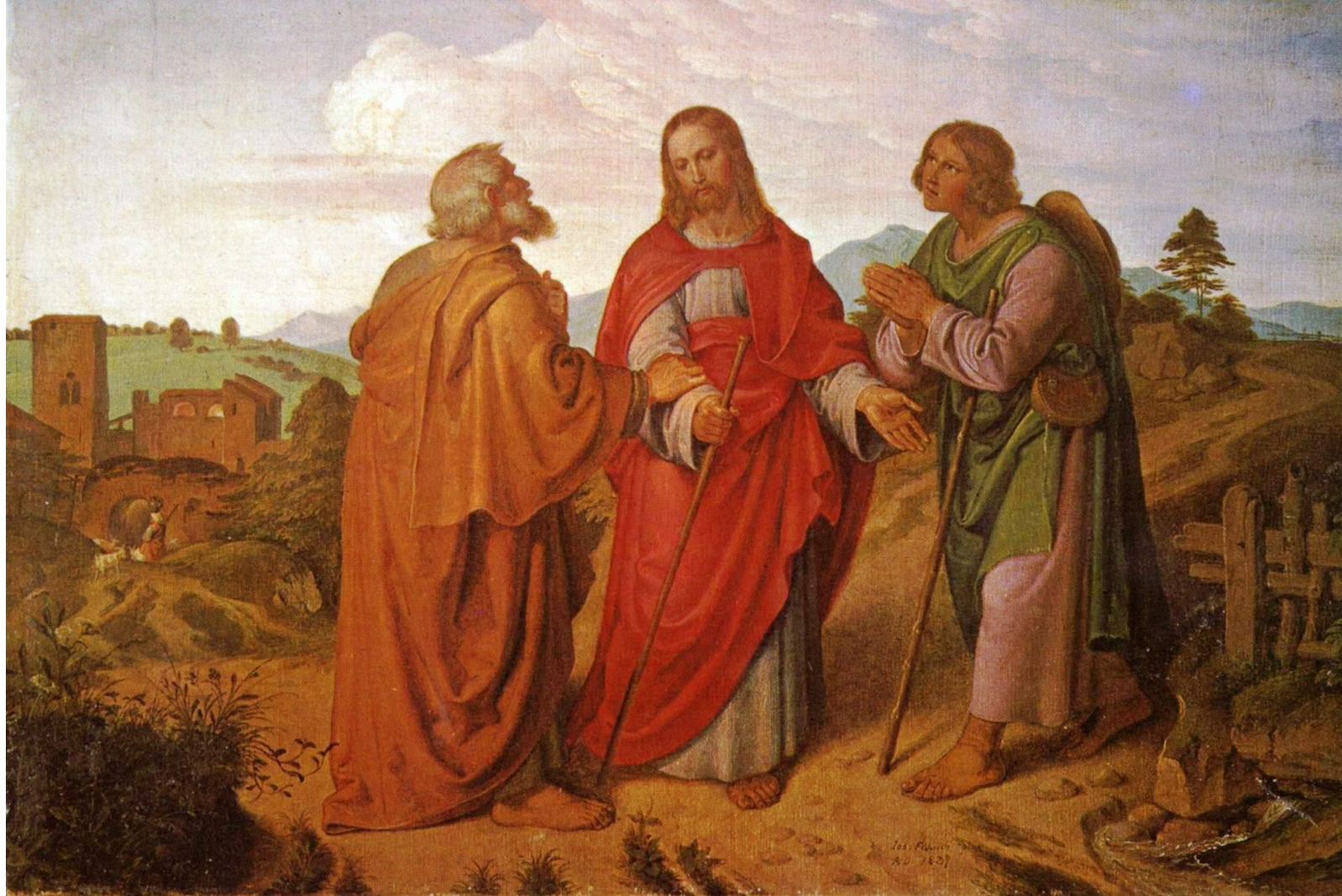
## OUR GOAL:

- Seek to see others as God sees them through God's grace
- Build relationships with others
- Be available to serve

# KNOW THE SCRIPTURE

- Jesus knew the entire Scripture, quoted it frequently and spoke with great authority that regularly amazed His audiences
- On the Road to Emmaus--Luke 24:27: "Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."





# KNOW THE SCRIPTURES -continued

- At age 12 ,Jesus sat among the teachers in the temple and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and answers (Luke 2:27)

## OUR GOAL:

- Read the Bible regularly and seek opportunities to study it
- Seek to memorize Scripture
- Pray for God's insights

# RESIST SATAN

- Jesus resisted Satan's attacks in the desert at the beginning of His ministry by quoting Scripture three times (Matt.4:1-11)
  - After 40 full days of fasting
  - Satan tempts Jesus with bread, physical protection and political power if Jesus obeys satan's commands
  - The word of God prevails and satan is defeated

# RESIST SATAN

- OUR GOAL:
  - Know Scripture
  - Pray for God's power to resist Satan, to avoid sin and to keep God's word in our hearts
  - Claim James 4:7 (resist and Satan will flee)

# REACH OUT TO THOSE IN NEED

- Christ's message and miracles focused on those in need, spiritually and physically
- He cast out demons, healed the sick and disabled, forgave sins, brought the dead back to life, fed the hungry and otherwise met the needs of many, many people
- Luke 5:31--It is not the healthy who need a doctor

# OUR GOAL IN REACHING OUT:

- Seek to actively identify those in need
- Seek God's guidance in how to help and His wisdom to act appropriately
- Be proactive in providing assistance
- No empty promises
- Be discreet

# FORGIVENESS

- Jesus provided the way for our forgiveness through His suffering, death, and resurrection
- He also forgave the sins of many individuals
  - Those who killed Him --Luke 23:34 (Father forgive them...)
  - As he healed a paralytic --Matt.9:1-8 (take heart son your sins are forgiven...)
  - Simon Peter's forgiveness in John 21:15-19

# FORGIVENESS-continued

- OUR GOAL:
  - Ask God for a forgiving heart where needed
  - Confess our sins of withholding forgiveness



# SPREADING GOD'S MESSAGE

- Jesus spread God's kingdom and message wherever He went-- open any page of the Gospels for examples
- OUR GOAL:
  - Pray for courage and wisdom
  - Begin with careful preparation and study (know what to say)
  - Always be ready

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP

- Jesus redefined leadership in terms of service
- He washed the disciples' feet to emphasize that a leader must serve-- John 13:5-17
- Matt. 20:25-28 --whoever wants to lead must serve those he/she is leading, just as Jesus came to serve and die for our sins

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP -continued

- OUR GOAL:
  - To seek opportunities to serve
  - To seek God's guidance
  - To become more empathetic of others
  - More on this in Part 3

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS (INVEST IN OTHERS)

- The second of the two greatest commandments--
  - Love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:28-31)
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
  - A man traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho and was attacked by robbers, stripped, beaten and left for dead
  - A priest and a Levite separately came upon him but passed by on the other side without helping
  - A Samaritan also came upon the man

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS (INVEST IN OTHERS)

- The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)--continued
  - The Samaritan took pity on him, bandaged his wounds, put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him
  - The next day the Samaritan advanced sums to the innkeeper for the man's continued care during the remainder of the Samaritan's journey and promised to pay for any shortfall



# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORS (INVEST IN OTHERS)

- What does the Parable of the Good Samaritan focus us on?
  - Who is your neighbor?
  - Love requires giving
  - Love directly involves us in the lives of others
- 1 John 4: If we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us

# WHAT LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR MEANS

- Prioritize people over projects
- Build relationships (meals are good where feasible)
- Practice active listening
  - Where they are at emotionally and spiritually
  - What their true needs are
- Be proactive- don't wait to be approached



# WHAT LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR MEANS-contd.

- No empty promises--follow up is essential
- Be discrete
- Recipients may react in varying ways
- You will become a changed person
- YOU will be greatly blessed

# CHALLENGES IN LOVING OTHERS

- May require personal sacrifice
- This does not come naturally for some of us
- Focus a lot on one person v. Focus a little on many
- Teach self-sufficiency
- Coach others to duplicate your efforts
- Allow God to interrupt your schedule

# REMEMBER...

- These are all lifelong goals
- Christ lived the perfect life
- We are all imperfect, even at our best
- Don't become discouraged and don't give up
- We all face daily challenges in each season of life
- We are all in this together

# NEXT WEEK

1. Live in Community
2. Seek Spiritual Wisdom
3. Become a Leader