

THE JESUS MOST PEOPLE MISS(ED) & How God Prepares Us For Our Calling

UNDERSTANDING

THE 4 NEW TESTAMENT GOSPELS

- ✓ The gospels aren't **biographies** – they are **apologetics**
Matthew, Mark, Luke & John/ Luke 1:1-4/ John 21:25
- ✓ Luke covers 30 **years** in 18 **verses!**
Luke 2:39-52 & 3:21-23

UNDERSTANDING

THE NEW TESTAMENT JESUS

- ✓ Jesus is clearly portrayed as **God in the flesh**
Colossians 2:9 & 1:15-19/ John 1:1 & 14/ 5:16-18
- ✓ Jesus is clearly portrayed as **fully human**
Philippians 2:5-11/ Hebrews 2:17 & 4:15/ Luke 5:17 & Mark 6:4-6/
Matthew 12:22-31/ 1 Kings 17-2 Kings 13 (Elijah & Elisha)

PREPARED

FOR OUR CALLING

- ① Hardship is not a **handicap**
James 1:2-4/ Hebrews 5:8
Luke 2:22-24 & Leviticus 12:6-8/ Matthew 2:13-23/ John 1:45-46 & 7:41-52
- ② Timing is **everything**
Luke 3:23/ John 7:3-6/ Acts 7:23-36
- ③ To **lead** well we must learn to **follow** well
Luke 2:51/ Matthew 20:25-28/ 1 Peter 5:5-6

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 24, 2010

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *The Jesus Most People Miss(ed)*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Because He was fully human, Jesus went through the normal growth process every healthy human being goes through – He grew physically, intellectually, spiritually, and relationally. Growing up, in which of these areas did growth come easiest for you? Which was the hardest?

2. How we live our lives and the decisions we make daily can significantly affect our ability to serve in God's kingdom. Which of the statements below would you say best matches your chief roadblock to serving?

- Moving too fast to notice opportunities to serve
- Packing too much into my schedule
- Trying to respond to every need
- Putting off getting started
- Unwillingness to flex my schedule and/or leisure time
- Other _____

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Larry pointed out that the power that enabled Jesus to do His ministry came from the Holy Spirit. That same Holy Spirit is available to all genuine Christians. That means we have a supernatural resource to help us do things and make changes that we never thought possible. Read the following passages and identify the Spirit's role in empowering us for ministry.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." [NIV]

Exodus 31:1-6

Then the Lord said to Moses, [2] "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, [3] and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- [4] to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, [5] to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. [6] Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you: [NIV]

John 15:4-5

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. [5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [NIV]

Can you think of any reasons why God is so concerned about people relying on His power for ministry and not their own power?

What have you found to be helpful in reminding you of your need to rely on God's power?

2. We also learned this weekend that hardship is not a handicap to living a life that is pleasing to God. In fact, it can prepare us to do so. Yet, maintaining this perspective on hardship can be challenging. How is Paul's perspective in 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 contrary to how most of us would normally think when facing physical or emotional challenges?

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, [4] who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. [5] For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. [6] If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. [7] And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

[8] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. [9] Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened

that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. [10] He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, [11] as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. [NIV]

Which part of this Scripture is most encouraging for you? Which part is most challenging?

3. In Matthew 20:28, Jesus gave a short description of His purpose when He told his disciples that He “did not come to be served, but to serve.” Since we’re called to emulate Jesus, it’s no surprise that we share a similar calling to serve others. What can you learn from the following verses about what it means to serve God?

Romans 12:4-8

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5] so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6] We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. [7] If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; [8] if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.[NIV]

Ephesians 4:11-13

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, [12] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. [NIV]

1 Peter 4:10-11

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. [NIV]

Can you think of any ways serving others can benefit us or help us grow as Christians?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at the four areas of growth in Luke 2:52, which if any would you like to see growth in?

Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. [NIV]

What could be your first step in moving towards growth in that area?

2. Are there any new service opportunities that you need to consider (or reconsider) as a result of this week's teaching?

Prayer Requests:

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