

DIRT DON'T HURT...

The Story

2 Samuel 16:5-14

Life Lessons From a Dirt Road for 2012:

Get **Perspective**
Matthew 5:38-39

Be **Teachable**
Psalm 3

Stay **Self-Aware**
Ephesians 4:32 & Matthew 6:14-15

Four Annoying Questions That Demand Answers:

- ▶ Am I looking for what God is teaching me in this situation or am I looking at my own ego?
- ▶ How has God forgiven me this year?
- ▶ Is there someone I need to forgive or ask forgiveness from?
- ▶ When annoyed, how can I start to respond differently in the new year?

Food for Thought

For the week of January 1, 2012

(questions and scriptures for further personal study)

1. This weekend, we were given some insight into dealing with the annoyances and challenges that can easily derail us in 2012. One of the keys in maintaining perspective when this happens is keeping God's goals and values in mind. What core values do the following scriptures suggest?

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
[6] in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight. [NIV]

Proverbs 9:10

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. [NIV]

Philippians 2:2-3

then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. [3] Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [NIV]

Colossians 3:13-14

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. [NIV]

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. [25] Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. [NIV]

Looking back at what you wrote above, are there any you need to refocus on for 2012?

2. If you've been at North Coast for any length of time, you've heard it said that one of the keys to successfully following Christ is through significant relationships. How does Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 describe a few of the physical, spiritual and emotional benefits of "doing life" with friends who encourage you?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their work:
[10] If one falls down,
his friend can help him up.
But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up!
[11] Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?
[12] Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. [NIV]

Are there any adjustments, changes or things you want to make sure you're doing in 2012 to stay connected and available to serve and encourage others?

3. As followers of Christ, our life, words, attitudes and actions impact those around us (Acts 1:8). Looking back at the key points in this weekend's teaching, which point do you want to make sure you keep in place for 2012 when the annoyances and challenges occur?

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]

Spend time thinking and praying about how you want to live out God's character in 2012.