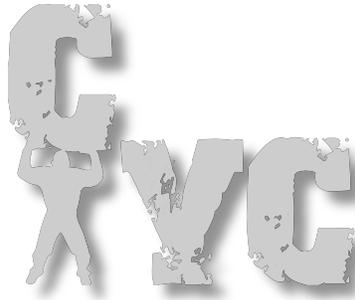

CVC

IT MATTERS





HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

We hope and pray that these lessons will be a blessing to you and all of the participants. With each lesson there is a corresponding video. Note the length of the video in the table of contents. Begin with any housekeeping/announcements followed by some songs and prayer. ***(Suggestion: Balance the time with the length of the video and planned discussion time.)*** Then watch the video first and spend the remainder of class discussing the topic. Discussion questions are included. May God bless you as you lead the study. Know that you are loved and know that You Matter.



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LESSON ONE



Attitudes Matter



ATTITUDES MATTER

By Cody Peery

Youth Minister

Florence Boulevard Church of Christ

When you look at my schedule on any given week, you will notice that I generally tend to stay busy. On the first day of the week, my wife (Ashley) and I get up, get dressed, and head to worship with our brothers and sisters. Following morning worship, I normally teach a Bible class to our senior high Youth Group. After class, we go out to eat with our friends. Later that afternoon, we return to worship. Many Sunday nights, we go out with our youth group kids or just hang around the building talking with different members and visitors. Then there is Monday – my weekly “honey-do” day. This is the day I work around the house doing personal things that need to get done, and depending on the time, I may make a visit to a member in the hospital or participate in various ministerial things, but Monday is typically an “off” day. Tuesday through Friday I am in the office or running errands for the church from 10 am until 3 pm. Night times you will find me supporting the youth at ball games, or attending different events with members of the congregation. Late at night I go to the gym with a few friends and work out. Saturdays are spent going to many different events and making final plans for Sunday. So my week (like many other Christians) is busy.

We live in a busy time and we are constantly busy doing things. Throughout our busy days, there is a common factor – we are generally around other people.

I would say on a normal day, I interact with 25+ people. Many of you may interact with way more than 25 people on a daily basis. Not only do I interact verbally with people, but there are many more people I interact with that I never speak a word to.

People are constantly observing us. They look at the way we talk as Christians, they look at the way we react as Christians, they look at the things we like as Christians, and they take special notice of our attitudes as Christians. WOW! What a tremendous thought! What a humbling thought! What a challenging thought! Have you ever considered the impact of your attitude?

I remember playing high school football growing up and I clearly remember having days when I had a poor attitude. I remember saying things like, “I hate practicing.” I remember saying things like, “this is stupid.” And, “I don’t want to do that.” I remember saying, “I can’t do that.” And the list could go on, but all of those things I said stemmed from my attitude. The thing about our attitudes is that they are a personal choice. We get to determine our attitudes. That is important today for many reasons.

“ *Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.* ”

- Winston Churchill

Churchill made the statement that our attitudes are powerful. He pointed to the idea that attitudes matter. The thing that stands out to me is that he doesn't say that only a positive attitude makes a big difference, he just said our attitude. Our personal reaction to everything in life will make a big difference and that can mean good, or bad. We can make the decision, and we hold the power to determine what kind of big difference we make.

Our attitudes are an extremely powerful catalyst that we must direct in the right way if we are going to glorify God. Our Attitudes truly matter. I want to share with you briefly a few places where our attitude make a big difference.

- Our attitude towards God
 - Ultimate Example – Jesus humbled himself to God, and His attitude show by obeying the will of God (Philipians 2:8). Even though He didn't want to die. He even asked not to. But since God said it had to be done he was obedient and held an attitude of positive trust that God knew best.
 - Our attitude towards God must show positive trust when things are good and when things are bad - when we understand, and even more when we don't.
 - Our positive attitude towards God matters

- Our Attitude towards the Church
 - Ultimate example - Notice Christ's attitude towards the Church as a bride. His other half. He loved his bride because he laid down his life for her so that he could sanctify her. Galatians 5:25-27 He wanted what was best for his bride.
 - He had an attitude that he was going to make the church better than it could ever be. We must hold this same attitude that the church is the best and that it is the bride of Christ. We cannot talk or act like it's a burden to be a part of His body, but rather be thankful and grateful to be included.
 - Our Positive attitude towards the Church matters.
- Our attitude towards those outside of the Church
 - When we look at the ultimate example of Christ, we see His attitude about those who were lost. He came to seek and save them and treated them with love and respect.
 - Ex. The adulterous woman in John 8:7, "He who is without sin cast the first stone." And notice that the conversions of Matthew and Zaccheus were based on Jesus' attitude toward them.
 - Our positive attitude towards those outside the Church matters.

Conclusion:

“ *People may hear your words, but they feel your attitude.* ”

- Winston Churchill

We have a powerful influential catalyst that we can use to glorify God. How will we choose to use it? Our attitude really does matter.

DISCUSSION

Who has the best attitude to mimic in our everyday lives? Why?

What is the best way to improve our attitude towards God?

How do we improve our attitude towards the Lord's Church?

How do we develop the right attitude about those who are lost? How do we help them come to know Christ?

What do we do when we need to change our attitude?

LESSON TWO



Fundamentals Matter



FUNDAMENTALS MATTER

By Matt Heupel
Pulpit Minister
Woodlawn Church of Christ

It hasn't been that long ago that I carried my sons to watch one of their favorite NBA stars, Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks. Giannis is one of the up and coming stars of the NBA. We arrived as early as possible so we could watch the teams in their pre-game drills. As we watched, my sons were so surprised to see an NBA star doing the same drills that they do in their practices. They watched as he spent almost half an hour on dribbling drills and another half an hour on just free-throws. Why is it that these NBA stars were spending all this time on the most simplistic basketball drills, the same drills that you would find being done by any rec league coach? Hall of Fame basketball Coach John Wooden once said, "It's the little details that are vital. Little things make the big things happen." Those little things are what we consider as the fundamentals. Coach Wooden would know how to make the big things happen because he led UCLA to ten National Championships in twelve years. But it isn't just Coach Wooden that believes in the fundamentals; Michael Jordan once said, "Get the fundamentals down and the level of everything you do will rise." This philosophy doesn't just work in sports but is

applicable to everything we do. Even Jesus said in Matthew 6.33 *"...seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."* Church, fundamentals matter!

It is so important that we as Christians do our best to focus on the fundamental principles of the Christian faith, so we will be able to resist those fiery darts the devil may hurl at us. Sadly, most of us are not even familiar with these fundamentals. They are so elementary and basic that we typically take them for granted. Most of us see things like the Bible being Divinely Inspired, the Omnipotence of God or the unconditional love of God as being some of those fundamental principles. However, those are considered more of truth than they are of fundamental principle. That would be like saying a fundamental of the game of basketball is that the free throw line must be 15 feet away from the basket, or the basket is 10 feet tall. Those are not the fundamentals but are rather more of the parameters of which we are working under. Nothing we can do will improve God's unconditional love or his omnipotence. We can read and study our Bibles 24/7 but that is never going to make the Bible more inspired. Those are simply stated Biblical truths that can't be changed. For our discussion, we need to be focused on those fundamental principles that we can practice over and over, so that they become second nature to us. What are those fundamentals that we can work on that will help us live more productive Christian lives?

To answer that question, we must direct our attention to Matthew 16. Jesus had just come to Caesarea Philippi and was asking His disciples who people thought He was. His disciples gave the usual answers of Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets, but Jesus wanted to know who they thought He was? Peter responded, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16.16). Jesus commends Peter's confession, and in doing so lays out some of those fundamental principles that we can practice daily to

help us reach our fullest potential. Just listen to the words of Jesus,

"... on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19)

The first fundamental principle that we can put into practice is to remind ourselves daily that He owns us! Jesus told Peter, it is "My church"! He is the Creator, the Founder and the Chief Cornerstone of His Church. Now remember, the church isn't a building but rather the people that make up the church are "the church", or as Jesus said, "My Church". It is His because He purchased it with His blood (Acts 2:28). So, how do we practice this fundamental principle? Daily, we should be reminding ourselves that we are not even the owners of our own lives. When He purchased us by His own blood, at the point of our salvation, we gave up control of our lives and allowed Him to live with us. How does that help us? Well think about it - what if someone asked you to watch over something of theirs that was of great value? Wouldn't you pay extra close attention as to how you kept up with it or what you did with it? You can't treat it as your own, because you are not the owner. However, you must keep watch over it and use it effectively until the owner asks you to return it. Jesus owns us! Paul said it this way, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20). We practice this fundamental by allowing that principle to dictate every decision we make. By reminding ourselves that we are living for Him and not ourselves, that will affect even the smallest of our decisions. Then, if we can consistently make the little decisions of our lives correctly for Him, the big decisions will just come naturally. To help remind ourselves of this, maybe we should begin each and everyday with the statement "Today, He owns me!"

Once we understand that He owns us, the next fundamental premise comes in what Jesus says to Peter: "I will give to you the keys to kingdom." (Matthew 16:19). Jesus wanted Peter to know that based on His confession, He had something in mind for Peter to do. Peter was going to take the lead, as the Lord opened the doors of His Church in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost. Not only does Jesus own us, but He needs us to do something for Him. Just as Christ needed Peter to use those keys to open the church on Pentecost and later to Cornelius in Acts 10, He needs us to do something for Him today. It feels good to be needed, doesn't it? It helps us find purpose and meaning to what we are doing with our lives. Wait...I know what your thinking..." how can God use me, a sinner?" Remember what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." We know that God created man from the dust of the earth, therefore Paul compares us to simple clay jars. Imagine if every one of our imperfections and flaws were illustrated in a clay jar. I don't know about you, but mine would be covered with cracks and holes and have pieces missing. However, due to the fact Christ lives within me, His light can shine, despite my flaws. Jesus can use me even when I am broken. Knowing that He needs me in this world, I can become the hands and feet of Jesus while on this earth and help Him accomplish His goals.

"Today, He owns Me! Today, He Needs Me!"

Thirdly, and maybe the best of all the fundamentals we can practice, comes in what Jesus says to Peter next. Jesus said of His church, "the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Jesus lets us know that nothing either in this world or beyond it will be able to stop His church and His will. That makes our next fundamental principle such a blessing to practice, "Today, I can't lose!" If I am making my decisions based on the practice of Jesus not only owning me but needing me to help Him accomplish His purpose, it helps me

in knowing that if I live my life based on those two premises, I cannot fail! It may be difficult, and I might even have a few setbacks, but in the end, if I live my life with those two statements in mind, I cannot fail. This fundamental reminds us of passages like Philippians 4:17 and Ephesians 3:20-21, that with God all things are possible. This fundamental also gives me the strength and the courage to step out of my comfort zone a little bit, in knowing that His church will never fail. He has already claimed the victory and nothing I can do can prevent that. So... "Today, I Cannot Lose!"

Today, He Owns Me!
Today, He Needs Me!
Today, I Cannot Lose!

If we begin to work on practicing these fundamentals in our everyday decision making, the tough decisions will just come naturally. These are the fundamentals and if we affirm them every day, we will also not be able to keep the message about Jesus to ourselves, but rather seek to share it with as many people as possible. So yes...Fundamentals Matter!

DISCUSSION

How does daily affirming “Today, He Owns Me!” change my mindset about my life?

How does daily affirming “Today, He Needs Me!” change my mindset about the activities I am involved with each day?

How does knowing that “Today, I Cannot Lose!” affect my potential?

LESSON THREE



God's Word Matters



GOD'S WORD MATTERS

By Josh Webster
Campus Minister
University of North Alabama

God's Word Matters!

Jeremiah 10:23

Have you ever found yourself in a situation when you didn't know what to do? Wouldn't it be great to have a set of instructions for every situation in life? Man has utterly failed when trying to "direct his own path," but God knows exactly what we should do. He even made sure it was written down so that all people could know His plan for their lives.

In what ways has man failed at directing his own path?

God's Word is Alive!

Hebrews 4:12, John 1:1,14, Matt 1:23

How can a book be alive? That's the genius of God. Jesus came to the earth in human form, however He embodied the authority of God.

What characteristic of Himself did He choose to live and be among us (Immanuel)?

How does Jesus being the Word of God and living "among us" show God's love for us?

God's Word Perseveres!

John 14:15-17, 16:7,13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10
God even had a plan to preserve His Word for future generations. The Holy Spirit has always played an important role in the lives of God's people. How was The Spirit involved in preserving the written Word? God's Spirit was meticulously revealing His Word to the authors of the Bible. What does Jesus mean when He says "the Spirit of Truth will guide you in ALL TRUTH" John 16:13? The use of the word "ALL" in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 is significant. Why? Discuss the connection between the word "perfect/complete" in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 13:8-10.

How does God's Word provide "all things that pertains to life and godliness" today 2 Peter 1:3?

God's Word Within Me!

James 1:21

Modern society largely rejects God's Word. How is this apparent in the world today? Christians study God's Word and develop faith based on those words Roman 10:17.

How should Christians receive God's word according to James 1:21 and Matthew 13:18-23?

How is rejecting God's Word the same as rejecting Christ? John 1:1,14, Luke 10:16

It's essential that Christians allow the Bible to guide their lives. Through His plan and providence, the Bible is preserved for all generations.

How is God's Word impacting your LIFE?

DISCUSSION

Discuss Jeremiah 10:23. Why has man failed at “directing his own path”?

How does a person develop his/her faith? Romans 10:17?

Discuss the significance of “Immanuel” (God Among Us).
Matthew 1:23

What does Jesus mean when He says “the Spirit of Truth will guide you in ALL truth”? John 16:13

Why is it important to recognize the importance of the word “ALL” in 2 Timothy 3:16-17?

Discuss the connection between the word “perfect/complete” in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 13:8-10,

How is God’s word “Implanted” within us? James 1:21
How should we receive God’s Word? James 1:21,
Matthew 13: 18-23

Do we live in a time where society rejects God’s Word?

LESSON FOUR



Hashtags Matter



HASHTAGS MATTER

By Scott Wright
Faculty Member
Mars Hill Bible School

The society in which we live and operate is obsessed with the idea of hashtags. Hashtags are descriptive, instructive, and (can be) inspirational. The words that are typically chosen to serve beside the '#' are picked to grab attention, describe what is shown, or make the information easier to find. Social media is overrun with the concept as most great and inspirational quotes are ended with some type of hashtag to try and elicit a reaction, response, or cause a revolution. The church and the spiritually-connected have attempted to plug in to this phenomena with hashtags that are intended to redirect the focus back to God and His word. What words could be attached to you that would grab attention, describe what is shown, or make you easier to recognize?

Main idea for this lesson is: Are there descriptors of our lives (a.k.a. hashtags) that could change the course of our eternal destination? That could change the course of others' eternal destination?

Let's look together at three areas where we should be aiming to change the conversation:

1. Social Influence

a) Social Media

In Ephesians 4:29-32, Paul explains the type of conversation that should be coming from those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. This reaches across into our social media presence as well (or it should).

Therefore, are we careful that no corrupting talk is coming out of our social media? Are we seeking to build up and give grace? Do we speak with bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice? These types of speech should not be found among the people of God, rather we should be seeking to show compassion towards one another, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave us.

b) Social Meetings

At least once in the Old Testament and at least once in the New Testament, there are specific warnings given to those who surround themselves with those who are not pursuing the truth and pursuing righteousness.

Proverbs 13:20 - "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

1 Corinthians 15:33 - "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals.'"

Are we making certain to surround ourselves with those who are striving towards the same goal? Heaven is our goal and the desire must be to arrive there bringing as many people with us as possible.

c) Social Movements

The direction one is headed is the determining factor of their attractiveness. Someone who is traveling away from God and His word is definitively less attractive than one who is consistently walking and striving to grow closer to God.

Matthew 7:13-14 warns us that we are not choosing the easiest path or the path chosen by the majority, but the path we are choosing leads to life.

Ephesians 2:19-22 is a perfect reminder of the value in following through on our decision to choose Jesus. We are known by God, valued by God, and built into a dwelling place for God when we consistently move in His direction.

2. Shared Influence

a) Shared With Celebrities

The world of social media and society itself are largely influenced and somewhat run by celebrities and those who promote themselves above anything else.

Paul was someone who dealt with the “celebrities” of his day in a way that inspires (or should inspire) us to respond the same way today. In Acts 25 and 26, Paul is face to face with those who thought so highly of themselves that they did not go anywhere without “...great pomp...military tribunes and the prominent men of the city.” (Acts 25:23). In dealing with Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice, Paul explained directly that his only concern was in pleasing God.

In Galatians 1:10, Paul perhaps sums up the mentality that we should carry into a world shaped and molded by “celebrities” and their opinions: “For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

b) Shared With Criticizers

There are always going to be those who try and pick apart and pull apart the choices and beliefs we share as Christians. Regardless of their intentional and constant attempts at destroying your faith foundation, the only devastation would be in giving up.

Peter spoke of those who constantly try and trouble those who are striving to do what is right. *“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may*

be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.” (1 Peter 3:13-17)

Therefore, if we are to share space (and we must) with those who openly criticize, then let us strive to be those who deal with them with gentleness and respect while maintaining a good conscience and our good example.

c) Shared With Christians

The hope is that we have surrounded ourselves with fellow believers and that we are moving in a spiritually-upright direction, and therefore, we can impact the world in a substantial way.

Paul spoke of the need for light in a world gone dim when he wrote in Philippians 2:14-15, “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, **among whom you shine as lights in the world...**”

In 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Paul encourages Timothy to stop allowing excuses to deflate your desire to lead and build up. In the places where our lives intersect with other Christians (specifically the social media/social influence part), may we strive together to inhabit those places with a spiritual mindset.

3. Spiritual Influence

a) Scripture

One way to shift the attention from the world's hashtags to something more positive is to use that platform to draw focus to God's Word.

In numerous places, like John 17:17, Romans 10:17, Romans 1:16, and 1 Peter 1:22-25 (to name a few), we are reminded of the power of scripture and how it can change every single person who reads it if they will allow their hearts to be in tune with what God is saying.

One example of this influence comes from the sports world... In 2009, Tim Tebow was playing in the national championship game as a member of the Florida Gators. On his eyepatch strips that night, he wrote “John 3:16” as a way of expressing his faith. The next morning, Tim was

informed that 94 million independent searches were done on John 3:16 overnight. Fast-forward three years. Tebow is a Denver Bronco playing the Pittsburgh Steelers in the playoffs. After the Broncos won, he headed into the post-game press conference when his public relations (PR) rep. stopped him in his tracks. He said, "Timmy, do you realize what happened?" Tebow replied, "Yeah, we just beat the Steelers - we're going to play the Patriots." The PR rep said, "No, do you realize what happened? - It's exactly three years from the day that you wore John 3:16 under your eyes." Tebow said, "Oh, that's really cool." But the PR rep went on, "No, I don't think you realize what happened. During the game you threw for 316 yards, your yards per completion was 31.6, your yards per rush was 3.16, the ratings for the night were 31.6, and the time of possession was 31.06. During the game 91 million people Googled John 3:16 and it's trending number one on every platform."

The amazing thing that took place was not in the statistics or the winning of a football game, but the sets of eyes that focused on the love our God has for us. Imagine if we flooded social media and the hashtag platform with the words of God!

b) Prayer/Prayer Requests

Another way to flip the script on hashtags is to use that opportunity to go before the throne of God in prayer.

Genesis 18:27, 1 Kings 18, James 5:16b-18, and 1 Timothy 2:1 are just a small sampling of proof that God's gift of prayer to us can redirect our worst days and create a joy within us that cannot be stopped.

c) The Gospel

Finally, if we are to truly take advantage of the platform laid before us, we should be presenting the gospel to everyone we are connected to or following. Time and time again, scripture speaks to the life-changing message of Jesus Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection. Why wouldn't we share that with those we consider friends and acquaintances?

1 Corinthians 2:2, Hebrews 13:14-16, and Titus 2:7-8, 11-15, all challenge us as followers of Jesus Christ to share that every chance we may have. Social media is a growing tool being used worldwide, so would it not make sense for the followers of Christ to use this to influence the world for the gospel?

DISCUSSION

Hashtags matter because they draw attention, give a description, and make information easier to spot.

What hashtags would be given to you in this life?

What hashtags would be given to tag your spiritual life?

How can we take better care of the platform we have been given?

How can we challenge each other and ourselves to be better stewards of that platform?

LESSON FIVE



Involvement Matters



INVOLVEMENT MATTERS

By Trae Durden
Minister

North Highlands Church of Christ

Involvement Matters

Psalm 92:12-15

Do you feel like you're planted in the house of the Lord? Can your spiritual life be described as "flourishing"? We don't use that word much. It's defined like this: "to be in a vigorous state; to thrive, to prosper." If this word isn't a good description of your spiritual life, is it possible that you haven't been "planted in the House of the Lord?" This isn't about being religious, or even going to church each week. It's about a life that's connected to Jesus! A life that lives to accomplish His mission of saving the lost! Our Savior is calling us to "be the church!" To continue what he started! We're going to talk about why "being the church" means that we're involved in each other's lives. IT MATTERS that you're involved and engaged with others to strengthen and encourage the mission of Christ in your community!

Divine Direction

2 Timothy 1:13-14

Christians are serious about true doctrine. As we study the pages of the New Testament, we learn that life is best lived according to Jesus' teachings. There is no substitute for the pure Word of God. Acts 2:42, John 16:12-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

DISCUSSION

What is Christianity without obedience to the teachings of Jesus?
How do the Epistles guide us into proper attitude and actions as followers of Christ?

Being “planted in the House of the Lord” means surrounding yourself with truth - bringing every thought under His authority. **Colossians 3:16-17**
It’s difficult to think like Jesus, but it’s not impossible! What are practical ways each of us can learn to control our thoughts?

DISCUSSION

What are some actions that can lead us to think better and do better?

God’s direction points us back to one another! Our youth groups and church families are not just places we go to be encouraged. These are the people we are to share our lives with. We should be investing in each other and loving one another in spite of our differences. **Ephesians 4:1-3, John 13:34-35.**

Devoted Family

2 Timothy 1:15-16

Faithful Christians create an intentional community! As each Christian devotes themselves to the attitude of Christ, we each become more welcoming, thoughtful, and generous. We each seek out ways to serve one another in love. **Romans 12:9-13, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 13:16, Galatians 6:10.**

“ *People grow when they’re truly accepted, not where they’re merely informed* ”

- Bob Goff

Faithful Christians create a constant community. Syncing the rhythms and patterns of our lives to build the community for the mission of Christ! **Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 John 1:5, 7.** By deliberately and intentionally sharing with one another, we're recreating the family; a community with shared life, shared peace, and shared spiritual rhythms! - **Ephesians 3:14-19.**

DISCUSSION

What difference does it make to have a connection to this group?

How could we become more devoted to one another?

How does your involvement impact this group?

Deliberate Practice

2 Timothy 1:17-18

Stop "going to church" and start "being the church." Seek to meet the needs of one another. If you see another Christian, recognize them as a member of your family and treat them with love and kindness! If a visitor is present, try to be the first one to welcome them and to invite them to sit with you. Whoever invited them in the first place will be so grateful that you reached out to include them. When you see a visitor, you should think about all the prayers someone else has prayed to lead them to this place! Let's honor one another by loving our neighbors, serving our visitors and being patient with each other as we learn to become the community that Jesus created us to be! **Philippians 2:1-5.**

DISCUSSION

List a few actions that you've seen others take to make a visitor feel welcome.

If you have ever visited another church, how did they make you feel welcome?

How could they have done a better job of representing Jesus to you?

How can you use what you've learned through that experience to make your group more welcoming and loving?

Are you "planted in the House of the Lord?" If you are "Flourishing" spiritually, you are planted, but if not, get involved! Make your faith an everyday deliberate practice! Build a constant community here with God's people! Get involved and meet needs! It's incredible what God can accomplish through a willing heart!

DISCUSSION

For this chapter, there are discussion questions within the text.

Here are a couple of more for deeper discussion

How have you seen this group show unconditional love in the past?

What more could you do to encourage devotion to this family of believers?

Share the quote by Bob Goff. Around the room ask Do we inform or accept? Which is better? How can we do a better job to accomplish this?

LESSON SIX



Relationships Matter



RELATIONSHIPS MATTERS

By Lonnie Jones
Licensed Professional Counselor
Huntsville, AL

Daryl Webb shouted at me. “Lonzo you are chasing vapor trails!” I was operating as a marauding defensive end for a football club. I was a ripped, lean, lethal 165 pound 17% body fat, pure animal. (Start humming Springsteen’s “Glory Days”). Webb was our athletic coordinator and coach. In his scheme of things, defensive ends did not contain—we penetrated the backfield. I was getting in the backfield—every time--- but could not get a substantial hold on the elusive QB. I’d reach out and come away with nothing.

When Solomon says, “Vanities” in Ecclesiastes, and he says it A LOT, what he may be saying is better translated as “meaningless” or literally “mere breath” and it is the breath that is exhaled not inhaled. Not the spirit of life giving breath but the breath that’s already been spent. Think of other terms he uses like chasing or herding the wind. Think in terms of “vapors”. You are chasing vapors, trying to hold mist, herding the wind. Yes Solomon has a list of ten things that are a waste of breath. If we pursue them, they are meaningless vapors---chasing the wind. The list is impressive and includes wisdom, human labor/accomplishment, human purpose, wealth, fame, and recognition. What the list does not include-- what is not wasted breath, meaningless, and vapors is found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and it is the only thing Solomon will discuss and not conclude with “vapors.”

Two are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep warm. But how can one be warm alone { Me - don't get all cra cra here}. A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated; but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NLT)

The bottom line? In the list of meaningless, vaporous, wasted breath, things the wisest man in the history of the world admits:

Relationships Matter

Who we surround and with whom we surround ourselves with will have a great impact on our spiritual success, recovery, warmth/ connection, and security. Relationship is the rare thing of true value found in Solomon's discussion of the meaning of the meaningless.

One leadership consultant says that people want to know three things:

Do you like me?

Can I trust you?

Will you help me?

What Solomon describes here is the value of having people in our lives that we can trust to be trustworthy, help us, and value us. As much as it is valued to have someone in your life who is like this, I'm more interested in becoming that person for the people who are in my life.

Relationships Matter

Who you are in a relationship matters more. Will you be that one who help others succeed, recover, belong (have warmth), and be secure? It's nice to have that person; it matters more to be that person.

LESSON SEVEN



SMALL THINGS MATTER



SMALL THINGS MATTER

By Larry Davenport
MA New Testament Studies
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Engineering Miracles

Each year, when new smart phones hit the market, cellular phone manufacturers appeal to the public to pay special attention to their latest features: Long lasting batteries, warp-speed processing, crystal clear displays, wireless charging, fingerprint sensors, eye tracking, infrared remote control, plus tons of other luxurious options. Over and over again year after year we hear the term, “engineering miracle.” Consider for a minute if this would be an engineering miracle:

Suppose you were going to build your very own smart phone, and suppose that in gathering materials to build this smart phone you found a shattered screen, a half-used battery, a cracked motherboard, a burned out processor, and you found some torn and damaged flex cables to connect the electronics together, along with some stripped screws for the overall assembly. Suppose you then showed me all of the items that you had gathered and proclaimed that you were going to build a smart phone and it would be an engineering miracle. The truth is that **if** you were able (with the junk you had gathered) to build a smart phone that was beautiful, sleek, and **actually able to power up** – it would be an engineering miracle.

Here is a second question: Suppose you wanted to build a worldwide religion, how would you begin it? People who start religions today like to launch in big cities with big money, and they will often involve popular people like movie stars to promote their religion. But suppose you wanted to start a worldwide religion today and you began by taking three fishermen, and you added one tax collector, and perhaps there were a few who were prostitutes in former times that you gathered. This is exactly what Jesus of Nazareth did and this is what I call an engineering miracle.

Small Things Matter

When Jesus invited the tax collector to follow Him and when he said to Peter, James, and John, “take up your nets and follow Me,” Jesus revealed a tremendous truth to us. It is a truth that many people might not recognize at first because it doesn’t make sense to start a worldwide religion using such humble materials.

But that is how Jesus began His church (the kingdom) and He tried to help us understand this through the telling of parables. In these parables, one point is delivered loud and clear, “Small Things Matter.”

The Sower and the Seed (Small Beginning – Huge Result)

In the parable of the Sower and the Seed (Mark 4:3-9), a man simply broadcasts seed across the land within his circle of influence. Some seed falls on the farmer’s path between the two fields and the birds eat it. Some falls on rocky ground, that is so prevalent in Palestine, and the roots can’t grow deep, so the sun scorches the plants and they die. Still other seeds fall in the thorny ground. That seed grows but the thorns choke it out. Finally, some of the seed falls in good and fertile ground and in some cases produces as much as 100 times what was planted. Jesus later explains that the kingdom of God works like this. When the word of God (the seed) is sown in the hearts and lives of people it might start out tiny but the end results are very large. Small things matter.

The Mustard Seed (Small Beginning – Huge Result)

In the parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32) Jesus describes how the tiniest of all seeds can grow into a tree 10-12 feet tall. He points out the benefits of this very large tree. This tree provides comfort by giving shade.

It also provides shelter for the birds to build their nests. It is really amazing that this tiniest of all seeds - that might easily be overlooked - grows into such a magnificent tree. Then Jesus explains that this is exactly how the kingdom of God works in the hearts and lives of people. It can be planted and almost go unnoticed, but over time it grows and grows and winds up huge as a young Christian matures into a grounded pillar of the church. Small things matter.

The Patient Farmer (Small Beginning – Huge Result)

In the parable of the Patient Farmer (Mark 4:26-29) a farmer plants the seed into the ground and he waits – patiently waits. If someone were to pass by his house, they might not even realize that a farm is there. Weeks pass by and one day that tiny seed sprouts and grows – ankle high, knee high, shoulder high, and then the big sickles come out and it is harvest time. The tiny almost unnoticed seed has reproduced itself 100 times over. And then Jesus asks the question, “Do you know what this means”? This is exactly how the kingdom of God works in the hearts and lives of people.

Jesus explains through the parables of the Sower and the Seed, the Mustard Seed, and the Patient Farmer that the Word of God has been released into this world like a seed. This seed makes it way into the hearts of people and in some cases it grows 10-12 feet tall, it grows and reproduces itself in the hearts and lives of other people to cause the kingdom to increase multiple times over. Small things that might almost go unnoticed really do matter.

The Belief That Noise Goes With News

Too often in our day and time we suffer from the delusion that nothing significant happens unless bright lights and loud noises surround it. If it is important, there will be fireworks and lots of fanfare. It is easy to believe that noise goes with news. If you don't believe me, the next time you are watching television, notice that when a commercial comes on the volume somehow increases because the advertiser wants to get your attention.

But oh how different the Word of God is...

It Was Almost Unnoticed – But Look At The Huge Result

If you had been in Rome in AD 33, you might not have known that it happened. But the word gets out among the Romans that a man was put to death in Jerusalem and the people were pretty unimpressed about the whole thing. The people mocked him, and beat him. While He was hanging on the cross, they challenged Him to use His claim of deity to come down from the cross. I don't think you and I would have figured it out. It would not have made sense that a worldwide religion would arise from:

- A man of Nazareth (they said nothing good comes out of that city)
- The son of a carpenter (how could the son of a carpenter be anyone significant?)
- An initial group of some fishermen (who probably smelled like fish and cursed like fishermen before coming to know God)
- Disciples with horrible reputations (people that no one wanted to associate with because of the way they treated people, or their moral bankruptcy)

We would not have been able to calculate that Jesus would take this group of people and start a worldwide religion. It would not make sense because Jesus did not begin in Rome (the New York city of that day). He started it in the little off-beaten place called Jerusalem. Way back in 33 AD, a tiny seed was released into the world and look what it has become. It may have started out tiny but it ended up huge. Look at what has happened in your own life because small things matter.

The following story appeared several years ago and has been passed around many times. It is a great illustration of how small things matter.

Small Gesture – Huge Result

Mark was walking home from school one day when he noticed the boy ahead of him had tripped and dropped all of the books he was carrying, along with two sweaters, a baseball bat, a glove and a small tape recorder. Mark knelt down and helped the boy pick up the scattered articles. Since they were going the same way, he helped to carry part of the burden.

As they walked Mark discovered the boy's name was Bill, that he loved video games, baseball and history, and that he was having lots of trouble with his other subjects and that he had just broken up with his girlfriend.

They arrived at Bill's home first and Mark was invited in for a Coke and to watch some television. The afternoon passed pleasantly with a few laughs and some shared small talk, then Mark went home. They continued to see each other around school, had lunch together once or twice, then both graduated from junior high school. They ended up in the same high school where they had brief contacts over the years.

Finally the long awaited senior year came and three weeks before graduation, Bill asked Mark if they could talk. Bill reminded him of the day years ago when they had first met. "Did you ever wonder why I was carrying so many things home that day"? asked Bill. "You see, I cleaned out my locker because I didn't want to leave a mess for anyone else. I had stored away some of my mothers sleeping pills and I was going home to commit suicide. But after we spent some time together talking and laughing, I realized that if I had killed myself, I would have missed that time and so many others that might follow. So you see, Mark, when you picked up those books that day, you did a lot more, you saved my life."

Small Things Matter.

DISCUSSION

How does the story of Bill and Mark demonstrate the importance of small things?

Jesus told stories to illustrate the importance of small things. Do you have any personal stories where a small act opened a door to influence something major?

Talk about and make a list of small things that we can begin practicing today that God can use to create big results somewhere down the road.

Some possible answers: Have a smile ready for everyone you meet, give positive cards and notes to others, visit the elderly, say "good morning/evening" to everyone, pray daily, read Bible daily, participate in every church activity possible, deliberately consider how to encourage others to good things.

LESSON EIGHT



THE HEART MATTERS



THE HEART MATTERS

By Ben Hayes

Minister

Highland Park Church of Christ

Frederic Chopin (SHOW-PEN) was a well-known and dearly loved Polish composer. In 1849, at the age of 39-years old, he laid dying in Paris, France. Knowing they would never be able to bring his body home, gasping for air he reportedly whispered his last request, "Remove my heart after I die and entomb it in Poland."

After his death, his sister, Ludwika, complied with his request – taking his heart before the body could be buried. She placed it in a crystal jar filled with alcohol and hid it under her clothes as she smuggled it past the Russian guards and officers all the way to Warsaw, Poland where it was eventually buried under a small monument in the Holy Cross Church. Due to his popularity in Poland, the monument became a rallying point for proud nationalists. During World War 2 the Nazis stole the heart and outlawed playing his music. Thankfully, after the war they returned the heart. It remained there untouched until 2014 when a secret committee exhumed it to make sure the jar was still intact. They found the heart in good shape and returned it once again to its place.

So why did I tell you about Frederic Chopin's odd request and the history of his heart? Because I believe there are some parallels to our heart, but obviously not the physical one. Let's talk about the spiritual "heart" that we possess that Jesus spoke so much about. I wonder, are you as concerned about your spiritual heart as Chopin was about his physical one?

YOUR HEART MATTERS BECAUSE OF ITS FUNCTION

A. *Just like God knew we needed a physical beating heart to pump the lifeblood through our veins – he knew we needed a spiritual heart to help feed our minds and bodies the spiritual nourishment.*

1. If the physical heart isn't working properly, we take huge precautions and immediately begin working on fixing it. Why? Because we know that we cannot live without it.
2. In fact, some say that part of the reason Chopin wanted his heart removed was he was fearful of being buried alive. If his heart was removed he knew that would make that impossible.

B. God knew our spiritual hearts had a huge purpose as well:

1. We are told in **Proverbs 4:23** to Guard our heart because from our heart “flow the springs of life.”

a. Just like the physical heart that springs out the life-giving blood

b. Our spiritual heart sends forth life-giving fuel for the soul.

c. So to fail in guarding it, could result in catastrophic failure of the heart.

d. Consider Jesus' words in **Luke 6:43-45** - *For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. 44 For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush.*

e. Good trees produce good fruit. But, many times, you don't know if it is good or bad until you see the fruit. You can't tell by looking at the seed, you wait for the production of fruit. With man it is similar. You begin to understand the kind of person someone is, not by their words, or by who raised them, or where they attend church, or where they go to school – GOOD FRUIT IS THE IDENTIFIER...Listen.

f. *:45 The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.*

- g. I would add – for the actions are done from that which fills the heart.
1. **Proverbs 27:19** As in water face *reflects* face, So the heart of man *reflects* man.
 2. That sounds real mystic and Sensei-ish (If that's even a word).
 3. Here is another translation: "As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person." – NLT

******DISCUSSION POINT: What does your heart say about you?** *When I was a kid we had a pear tree, an apple tree, and a pecan tree. Some years they did ok, but most of the time we would get excited about the prospect of their fruit but would often be disappointed because the fruit would not be very good or they would hardly produce enough to do much with it. There came a time when my dad finally cut them down. Not all at the same time, but over the years they have all been removed. The usefulness of the tree was in the fruit it produced.*

*Thankfully, our usefulness isn't dependent upon our good works produced from ourselves, but rather from the good works produced in us by the power of God. We just have to prepare our hearts to allow God to work in us – "He who abides in me and I in him bears much fruit..." (John 15:5). **Are you allowing God to work in your heart? What steps do you need to take to let Him have control of the function of your heart?*******

YOUR HEART MATTERS BECAUSE OF IT'S IMPACT

- A. That matters because it is making an impact on someone.
1. *Isn't it crazy to think that people were still rallying around the heart of a man who had died 100 years before? His life and actions had such an impact that the Germans STOLE HIS HEART to discourage the hearts of the people!*
 2. Your actions and words don't just impact you.
 3. That is why Jesus does make a big deal out of it.
 4. **Matthew 5:13-16** – You are the salt of the earth (intended to bring flavor, healing, and preservation to this earth) You are the light of the world (intended to bring guidance) to those around you. "Therefore, let your light so shine before men that they see your good works and glorify the father who is in heaven."
 5. There is NO DOUBT that your actions – the result of the kind of heart you have – will impact the lives of others.

- B. Your heart will touch people at school for good or bad.
1. Just stop and ask yourself what kind of impact you are making.
 2. **Proverbs 3:5-8** talks about the impact that seeking God with ALL YOUR HEART WILL MAKE.
 3. It definitely makes an individual impact but if God is DIRECTING OUR STEPS then others see it and follow it.
 4. I don't care who you are... people are watching you.
 5. Your choices today could impact people for years to come.

*****DISCUSSION POINT:** *List all the people you can think of who have influenced you in your Christian walk. How many can you come up with? I can still remember older men and women in the congregation I grew up in who influenced me as a young child. Their Bible classes, their examples outside of the Bible classes and worship, and the time they took in helping a young boy, all made an impact. Some of them might not even realize how much they helped to mold my faith. That is probably the same for you. Why not take some time today and write them a note, send them a message, or give them a call, or visit to let them know just how much their hearts impacted you!*

Are you living in such a way that others are being impacted by YOUR heart? In a positive way?***

YOUR HEART MATTERS BECAUSE OF ITS DIRECTION

- A. Chopin wanted his heart to be in his home. As crazy as the request was, he never felt at home anywhere else. So, if his body couldn't be there, at least his heart could be.
- B. Paul sort of expresses a similar thought in **2 Corinthians 5:1-5**
1. *"For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven."* - vs 2
 2. Solomon told us that he has *"set eternity in their hearts"* – **Ecclesiastes 3:11**
- C. Jesus states that where our TREASURE is there will our HEART BE. **Matthew 6:21**
1. In the verses proceeding He was talking about where we like to store treasures
 - a. Many people store them here...on this earth. Houses, cars, money, etc.

b. He says be careful because the more attention you focus on those things the less attention you give to the things that CANNOT FADE AWAY RESERVED FOR YOU!

c. Where your treasure is – YOUR HEART is also there.

2. What your heart does sets the course of your life.

*****DISCUSSION POINT: How much difference does it make to have a goal when you are competing in some kind of sport or event? Paul frequently talks about the goal he had. 2 Corinthians 5 was just one of many. Leaders, encourage you students to search and find some of the other passages where Paul and other New Testament writers discuss the things that were to come and the encouragements he would give as a result and then discuss. For instance:**

Philippians 3:13-14 – Paul pressed on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Christ will return for us one day so we should be encouraging one another with those thoughts.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 – His time to die was approaching but He understood that he had fought the fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. Having done so, he was confident that a crown of life awaited him and all others who looked forward to Christ's coming.

2 Peter 3:10-13 – Knowing that the world will one day be destroyed in fire, "what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness...."

DISCUSSION

There are several discussion points in the text above. Here are some concluding thoughts to discuss:

So where is your heart? I hope the physical one is still in your chest. If you are curious about that just check your pulse. If you still have a pulse, then you still have a heart.

But what about your spiritual heart? Is there a pulse? Is it beating for God? What kind of impact is it making on those around you? Is it pointing you in the right direction? Is it pointing others in the right direction?

LESSON NINE



WHAT YOU KNOW MATTERS



WHAT YOU KNOW MATTERS

By Austen Oakley
Youth Minister
Stony Point Church of Christ

The Age Of Information

What is the largest freshwater lake in the world? What is the diameter of the Earth? What color jersey is worn by the winners of each stage of the Tour De France? When did the Cold War end?

If you didn't know the answers were Lake Superior, 8,000 miles, yellow, and 1989, you're not alone. When it comes to trivia and being full of information, you don't want to be on my team.

We live in a world FULL of information.

Think about that for just a second...

At school, you are tested on information you are taught. In sports, you are expected to retain information about plays and game plans. At work, you are paid to know certain information. The list could go on and on and on. The world as we know it revolves around information.

The Bible is clear that it is not a bad thing for us to be intelligent here on this earth. (Proverbs 18:15, 24:5) What you know matters. It's easy to understand that if we don't know certain things, then we just aren't going to be as successful as we might want to be in life.

The Source Is All That Matters

Spiritually speaking, what you know is so important. It is so sad to me to look around at the religious world today and to see so many people who base their “truth” on what someone tells them instead of what the Bible says. I know so many good people who have been led astray by simply listening to other people or to their own desires. God knew this would happen and warns us about it in 2 Timothy 4:3 and Jeremiah 10:23.

Here is the simple truth:

WHAT WE KNOW MATTERS BUT THE SOURCE IS ALL THAT MATTERS

When it comes to our spiritual lives, we must always follow what God says. Period. It doesn't matter what our best friends, grandparents, coaches, or anyone else says. God's Word is the standard that we must live our lives by and the standard that we will be judged by. (John 14:6, 8:31-32, 17:17, 2 Timothy 2:15, and Psalms 25:5, 119:60)

I want to challenge you as you are beginning your walk with God or as you are continuing your walk with God to read God's Word as much as you can to hear the truth and to know the truth.

Satan is smart. He is going to do whatever he can to try to lead us astray. It is up to us to know the truth of God to avoid being led astray.

What you know matters, but the source is all that matters.

Always let God be your source.

DISCUSSION

Why do you think it is so easy for people to be led astray from the Truth? How can we keep ourselves from being led astray?

Why do you think it is so important for us to never stop reading and hearing the Word of God? What happens when we don't stay in the Word as much as we ought to?

Read John 14:6, 8:31-32, 17:17, 2 Timothy 2:15, and Psalms 25:5, 119:60. What do we learn about the Bible from these verses?

End the end, it doesn't matter about what "others" say. It only matters what God says. Should this change the way we live? If so, how?

LESSON TEN



WHO I AM MATTERS



WHO I AM MATTERS

By Sonny Owens
Minister

Spring Valley Church of Christ

Exodus 3:1-15

V. 14, And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."

There is a lot we could say about this statement, I Am Who I Am.

One thing for sure, God is saying to Moses, "Who I Am is important."

That was a long, long time ago. But it still matters who God is.

But does God ever say, "It Matters Who You Are?"

In Exodus 3:7-10, it seems as if God is saying to Moses...

Moses it matters who you are. You are the one who I have chosen to lead My people that is oppressed and hurting and needing relief from the heartache of life. Moses it [really does] matters who you are!

Excuses

Of course, we know that Moses began to make excuses to God as to why he couldn't possibly be the one to do such an important work and besides Moses said, "Who will I say sent me?"

God told Moses [3:14] you shall say to the children of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you." The One who is important has sent you. The One that matters has sent one that matters.

You are important. It matters who you are. It really matters who you are! Whether God is talking to Moses or talking to you or me....it matters who you are.

2 Timothy 4:9-11

We believe the apostle Paul is near to his time of death. He is in prison. He writes for Timothy to bring certain things to him. First Paul asks that Timothy come and be with him. Timothy was so important to Paul. Who Timothy was mattered to Paul.

He asks Timothy to bring him some clothes and his books. And he asks Timothy to bring a (young) man named Mark.

Most likely this young man is John Mark. John Mark was a companion of Barnabas and Paul on a missionary trip. John Mark and Barnabas were cousins. John Mark was a missionary companion with Barnabas and Paul but for some reason he left the mission and Paul must have been upset with him.

When it was time for another mission trip, Barnabas wanted to take John Mark along with him again, but Paul said no, you are not taking John Mark. In fact, in **Acts 15:38** it says that Paul insisted that John Mark was not to travel with them.

We know that Barnabas and Paul had a pretty bad falling out over this....**Acts 15:39,40, *Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; (40) but Paul chose Silas and departed,***

Years later (**from Acts 15 to 1 Timothy 4**) Paul ask Timothy to bring John Mark to him. Why? Different translations describe Paul's want and need for John Mark.

He is useful to me (NKJV, NAS, ASV, ESV)

He is profitable to me (KJV)

He is helpful to me (NIV)

He can help me in my work (TEV)

If you or I were writing this we might say, "Bring John Mark to me because **he matters**. He is important to me." It really did matter who John Mark was, it really did.

You are a part of a youth group. You are important to your youth group. You are important to the church you attend.

I am sure there have been times and will be times that you might think, "I can't do what I have been called on to do." Maybe the task you are asked to do is out of your comfort zone. Perhaps, like Moses, you have said, "Hey I just can't do that."

Remember, God reminded Moses that Moses mattered and that is why he was asked to free Israel. God in essence is saying, "Who you are matters to Me. "

Don't you know there are plenty of people that could have filled Moses shoes, but God asked Moses. Why did God choose Moses? Because Moses mattered to God. Who he was mattered.

You come to CYC and there are some great people at CYC. Some of our heroes are at CYC. We could listen to them all night as they teach God's wonderful words....you know, that message that strikes our hearts.

Listen, listen very carefully. You matter to CYC. Who you are **matters** as to what happens on this special weekend in Dallas, TX. and Pigeon Forge, TN. More important than CYC who you are matters to your church family. You matter to your youth group.

Who you are ABSOLUTELY matters to God

More than anything else who you are matters.

Yes, I have belabored the point. Repeated myself several times because you are important. Who you are matters.

DISCUSSION

Describe in your own words what you think God means when He says, "I AM Who I AM"

Why did God call on Moses to be the deliverer of His chosen people?

How did John Mark let Paul down?

Why did Paul, later on want John Mark to be brought to him?

In your own words how you would translate Paul's need for Mark?

What can you do that no one else can do?

If you do not do what God has called you to do, who will?

LESSON ELEVEN



IT MATTERS



IT MATTERS

S.W.A.T. Skits With A Truth

Just in case you are not familiar with S.W.A.T. they can best be described as “values-based entertainment.” They have developed this selection of skits specifically for this video series.

We hope you are blessed with their presentation of **IT MATTERS**



IT MATTERS

