

Week 5: Day 14-16

Week 6: Day 17-19

Week 7: Day 20-22

Week 8: Day 23-25

Introduction

I. The Purpose Driven Life

a. This Teaching

- i. Based on a bestselling book written by Rick Warren, lead pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA.
- ii. The book is written as a 40 day series of daily devotionals.
- iii. The number 40 was selected because of it's biblical significance
 1. Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
 2. Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai and 40 years in the desert.
 3. The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land
 4. David was transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge.
 5. Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
 6. The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change.
 7. Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
 8. The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.

b. The Goals for this teaching

- i. Promote personal devotion and understanding of our individual purposes for life.
- ii. Strengthen the desire of individuals to serve the fellowship of believers through each partner discovering his/her divine calling.
- iii. Create opportunities for small group leaders to share this information in a small group setting with their un-churched friends and family.

II. When God Seems Distant

a. Introduction

- i. God is real, no matter how you feel.
- ii. Feelings are a poor gauge for our spiritual state.
- iii. God is often silent, and uses his silence as a teaching tool.
 1. Silent in eternity in memorial
 2. Silent for 400 years during Israel's captivity
 3. Silent for 40 years of Moses' life
 4. Silent for 37 chapters of Job's trouble
 5. Silent at points in David's life
 6. Silent for 400 year interbibliary period
 7. Silent while Jesus was being crucified
- iv. God declares he will never leave us – (Deut. 31:8; Psalm 37:28; **Hebrews 13:5**)
- v. God admits that sometimes he hides his face from us.
- vi. It is painful and disconcerting, but it is absolutely vital for the development of your faith.
- vii. We grieve God's Spirit and quench our fellowship with him by disobedience, conflict with others, busyness, friendship with the world, and other sins. (I Thess. 5:19)

b. Tell God exactly how you feel

- i. We have the privilege to pour out our hearts to God and tell him how we feel.
- ii. God can handle your doubt, anger, fear, grief, confusion, and questions.
- iii. This is a part of prayer.

c. Focus on who God is – his unchanging nature

- i. Focus on God's unchanging characteristics and attributes.
- ii. Despite the change in our status, God is constant.
- iii. Attributes to focus on:
 1. That he is a good and loving
 2. That he is all-powerful (Omnipotent)
 3. That he notices every detail of my life (Omniscient)
 4. That he is in control (Sovereign)
 5. That he has a plan for my life
 6. That he will save me (Savior)

d. Trust God to keep his promises

e. Remember what God has already done for you.

III. Formed for God's Family

a. Introduction

- i. You were formed for God's family.
- ii. Because God is love, he treasures relationships.
- iii. When we place our faith in Christ, God becomes our Father, we become his children, other believers become our brothers and sisters, and the church becomes our spiritual family.
 1. The family of God includes all believers in the past, the present, and the future.
- iv. Every human being was created by God, but not everyone is a child of God.
 1. The only way to get into God's family is to be born again.
 2. John 1:12 - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
 3. John 3:3 - Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

b. Benefits of Being In God's Family

- i. The moment you were spiritually born into God's family, you were given some astounding birthday gifts: the family name, the family likeness, family privileges, family intimate access, and the family inheritance!
- ii. God will meet all your needs.
- iii. We will be with God forever. – I Thess. 5:10; 4:17
- iv. We will be changed to be like Christ. – I John 3:2; 2 Cor. 3:18
- v. We will be freed from all pain, death and suffering. – Rev. 21:4
- vi. We will be rewarded and reassigned positions of service – Mrk. 9:41; 10:30; I Cor. 3:8, Heb. 10:35, Matt. 25:21,23
- vii. We will get to share in Christ's glory. – Rom. 8:17; Col. 3:4; 2 Thess. 2:14; 2 Tim. 2:12

c. Baptism: Identifying with God's Family.

- i. Baptism is equally important with evangelism and edification.
- ii. Baptism is important because:
 1. Baptism declares your faith.
 2. Baptism shares Christ's burial and resurrection.
 3. Baptism symbolizes your death to your old life, and announces your new life in Christ.
 4. Baptism is a celebration of your inclusion in God's family.
- iii. Baptism doesn't make you a part of God's family, it simply shows you are a part of God's family.

- d. Life's Greatest Privilege
 - i. Because you are a part of God's family – God is proud of you!

IV. What Matters Most

- Because God is love, the most important lesson he wants you to learn on earth is how to love.
 - a. The Best Use of Life Is Love
 - i. "A Samaritan woman once tried to debate Jesus on the best time, place, and style for worship. Jesus replied that these external issues are irrelevant. Where you worship is not as important as why you worship and how much of yourself you offer to God when you worship."
 - ii. There is a wrong way to worship.
 - b. The Best Expression of Love is Time
 - i. The greatest gift you can give someone is some of your time.
 - ii. Men especially have a hard time with this truth.
 - c. The Best Time to Love Is Now