

# Fifty Sermon Seeds

By Terry D. Casey

## **#1 “Where Are the Nine?”**

Luke 17:11-19

### **Introduction**

1. Gratitude – “The quality of being thankful.”
2. Bible advocates Gratitude! See Col. 3:17.

### **Text**

1. Leprosy is a highly contagious disfiguring disease.
2. Vivid metaphor of sin’s destructive power! See 2 Kgs. 5:27.
3. Jesus heals! See 1 Pt. 2:24f.

### **Application**

1. Our Infectious Disease is Healed. See Jn. 8:11.
2. Our Future Has Drastically Changed. See Col. 3:1-4.
3. Our Attitude is Now Altered. See Heb. 12:28.

### **Conclusion**

1. Read 1 Tim. 1:12-17.
2. Would you have been among the nine?

## **#2 “Our Actions Reflect Our Hearts”**

Proverbs 27:19

### **Introduction**

What is in the heart comes out! See Mt. 15:18-19.

### **Text**

1. Is this *Introspection* or *Identification*? [explain].
2. There is a way of knowing ourselves & being known!
3. There is a way of knowing others. See Mt. 7:20.

### **Application**

1. We are Defined by Our Hearts! See 1 Sam. 16:7, 1 Chron. 28:9, Gen. 6:5.
2. We are Directed by Our Hearts! See Prov. 4:23, Ps. 119:11, Jas. 1:22-25.
3. We are Delivered by Our Hearts! See Acts 2:37-38 and Col. 1:13-14, Acts 8:22.

### **Conclusion**

1. Read Ps. 139:23-24.
2. Our hearts and actions are to *Reflect* the blessed image of Jesus! How? See Rom. 12:1-2, 2 Cor. 13:5.

## **#3 “Young & Old”**

Titus 2:1-8

### **Introduction**

1. There always seem to be “walls” between old and young.
2. This text brings the younger and older together!

### **Text**

1. “Sound Doctrine.” Healthy Teaching! 2 Tim. 4:1-5.
2. “Older Men” – vv:2. See Gen. 18:19.
3. “Older Women” – vv:3-5. See Prov. 6:20-22.
4. “Younger Women” – vv:3-5. See Prov. 31:30-31.
5. “Young Men” – vv:6-8. See Phil. 3:17.

### **Application**

1. The Older Can Have a Great Impact! Wisdom, Experience, Knowledge, Calmness, Composure, etc.
2. The Younger Can Too! Energy, Joy, Outlook, Spirit, etc. See 1 Tim. 4:12, Phil. 4:9.
3. Both Can Also Be Impacted. See Heb. 10:24-25. Also, 2 Tim. 1:5.

### **Conclusion**

1. Character comes in a lot of ways! Mostly learned!
2. Are you teaching? And are you learning?

## #4 **“What is Your Life?”**

James 4:13-15

### **Introduction**

Any way you look at it, life is short – unpredictable!

### **Text**

1. A scenario is presented – v:13. Common situation!
2. A caution is issued – v:13. Warning! Sober thought!
3. A reality is stated – v:14. Truth! Fact! No doubt!
4. An approach is underscored – vv:15-16.

### **Application**

1. Seriously Reflect on How You Think! vv:13,15. Don't leave God out. See Jer. 29:11. Remember Prov. 23:7.
2. Do Not Presume Tomorrow! Not guaranteed! See Lk. 12:16-21 and Heb. 9:27.
3. Embrace the Reality of Today! It is a gift! It is special! It is all you have! See Mt. 6:25-34 and 2 Cor. 6:2.

### **Conclusion**

1. The brevity of life should force arrogance away! v:16.
2. Our lives are a “Vapor”! Thanks be to God for Jesus! See 1 Cor. 15:57-58.

## #5 **“If a Man Dies, Shall He Live Again?”**

Job 14:14

### **Introduction**

1. The will to live is a basic. Sometimes called, “Self-Preservation.”
2. The fact of the matter is man does die! But what then?
3. Jesus came and answered Job's question. See John 11:25-26.

### **Discussion**

1. Yes, If You're Connected to His Resurrection – Rom. 6:3-11.
  - a. The problem is sin brings death – Rom. 6:23.
  - b. God is “Just” and the penalty had to be paid.
  - c. Jesus paid the penalty with His blood. See 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
  - d. God raised Jesus providing a way back to the Father!
  - e. Those in His DBR, are forgiven and will living eternally!
  - f. The “Fountain of Youth” is the “Blood of Christ.”
2. Yes, If You Continue in His Way – Jn. 14:6, Jn. 8:32, 1 Jn. 1:7.  
“In Jesus” means a life change. Rom. 6:4, Col. 3:1-4.
  - a. A change in mindset and attitude! See Phil. 2:5.
  - b. A change in perspective & outlook! See 2 Cor. 12:7-10.
  - c. A change in desire and longing! See 2 Cor. 5:9.
  - d. A change in approach and action! See Jas. 1:22.

### **Conclusion**

Read Phil. 3:1-14. Our focus is, “Attaining to the Resurrection of the Dead.”

## #6 **“Bearing with the Weak”**

Romans 15:1-3

### **Introduction**

Empathy – “the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.”

### **Text**

1. Chapter 14 context continues here.
2. “Strong” have a significant role. See 14:1, 1 Ths. 5:14.
3. “Strong” are defined in Gal. 6:1-2.
4. “Strong” are to have right attitude toward “weak.”
5. “Weak” have “Issues.” Cf. Jn. 21:15-17.
6. “Strong” have an example. See Isa. 53:4, 1 Pt. 2:24.

### **Application**

1. Be Loving. See 1 Cor. 13:4-8, Eph. 4:32.
2. Be Truthful. See Gal. 4:16.
3. Be Available. See Heb. 10:24.
4. Be Selfless. See 1 Cor. 10:33, Lk. 9:23.
5. Be Real. See Rom. 3:23.

**Conclusion:** If you are blessed (With “Strength”), use it to build up others! See Eph. 4:11-16.

## #7 “Shall We Continue in Sin That Grace May Abound?”

Romans 6:1-2

### Introduction

God's Grace is stunning! But it can be abused!

### Text

1. “Grace” Abounds – See 5:1-2, 8-11, 15, 17, 20-21.
2. Infers a False Conclusion – See Rom. 3:8, 6:15.
3. Vigorous Refutation – We died to sin!
  - a. How? See vv:3-4.
  - b. Why? See vv:5-7, 11.

### Application

1. Grace is Amazing! See Col. 1:13-14.
2. Grace Brings Change! See Rom. 6:12-14.
3. Grace Establishes Hope! See Heb. 6:19.
4. Grace Opposes Sin! See Titus 2:11-14. Antithesis!

### Conclusion

1. Read 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 21. Also, Heb. 10:26-31.
2. Grace produces righteousness, not added sin!

## #8 Victory Over Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

### Introduction

1. There is a fight raging for our minds and lives!
2. The outcome of this fight has eternal consequences!

### Discussion

1. Precedent Has Been Established – vv:1-12.
  - a. Look back – vv:1-11. See Rom. 15:4.
  - b. Look within – v:12. See 1 Pet. 5:6-11.
  - c. The danger of falling away exists! 1 Cor. 9:27.
2. Victory is Unquestionably Assured – v:13.
  - a. Nothing remarkable/unique about temptation. See 1 John 2:14-15. Also, Jas. 1:13-16.
  - b. God has promised a way out.
  - c. Therefore, man must make correct moral choices – “You are able” – “You can bear.” How? Psalm 119:11.

### Conclusion

1. We are reminded that we can't excuse ourselves from accountability regarding our own sinful behavior.
2. Build your heart and mind so that you make correct choices!

## #9 Make This Your Aim

Philippians 3:1-21

### Introduction

You must stay ready all the time. Be prepared! Press on! Always renew your readiness!

### Discussion

1. Everyone Has a Past – vv:1-6.
  - a. Paul had both a good and bad past. See 1 Tim. 1:12-17.
  - b. Past (good and bad) can be devastating! See Lk. 17:32.
2. Everyone Has Opportunity – vv:7-11.
  - a. Paul put his past behind him for a reason. “Gain” & “Attain”
  - b. Opportunity is open to all of us! See 1 Tim. 2:4, Ezk. 18:32.
3. Everyone Has a God-Provided Plan/Goal – vv:12-16.
  - a. Forget the past & look forward! See 2 Tim. 4:8.
  - b. God has not left us without direction! See 2 Tim. 3:14-17.
4. Everyone Can Have “Heavenly Citizenship” – vv:17-21.
  - a. Live as a citizen (Native) of heaven! See Eph. 5:1-2.
  - b. We are told how we can be God's child and an heir. See Gal. 3:26-29.

### Conclusion

1. Have confidence in Jesus! Be convicted! Be assured!
2. Make Paul's goal your goal?

## #10 “Workplace Christianity”

Genesis 39:1-23

### Introduction

1. We are God’s people 24/7/365 (Illustrate).
2. Challenges exist. Especially at work!

### Text

1. Sold as a slave – Gen. 37:28.
2. Potiphar’s house – 39:1-23.
3. Blessed! – 39:2-6. See Acts 7:9.
4. Respectful and Devout – 39:8-9.
5. Yet challenged – 39:1, 7, 10-23.

### Discussion

1. Is a Blessing! See Jas. 1:17; 2 Cor. 9:8.
2. Is an Opportunity! See Gal. 6:7-10; Est. 4:14.
3. Is a Challenge! See Mt. 10:16; Rom. 1:28.
4. Is a Crucial Need! See Jn. 3:19; Eph. 5:8-11.

### Conclusion

1. We have a task regardless of the difficulty! See Ezek. 3:19.
2. Be God’s person, even in the workplace!

## #11 “What Shall We Do?”

Acts 2:37 (See vv:36-47)

### Introduction

Having Jesus in your life is vital! (Illustrate).

### Text

1. Peter had just preached the 1st Gospel sermon!
2. The reaction was swift and massive. Greek *katanyssomai* = “A piercing or stinging pain.”
3. Solution is in 2 imperatives – Repent & Baptized!
4. Result: Forgiveness & the Gift of the Holy Spirit!
5. Long-term: Worship, Growth, Caring & Sharing!

### Discussion

1. Reality of Sin & Its Consequences Hits Hard! See Rom. 6:23, Isa. 59:2, Rom. 3:10,23, Jas. 4:17.
2. Certainty of God’s Forgiveness Brings Relief! See Heb. 8:12, Rom. 11:27, 2 Cor. 5:17, 1 Jn. 1:7.
3. Truth of the “Promise” Changes Everything! See Joel 2:28-32. Also, Gal. 3:26-29, Eph. 4:17-24.

### Conclusion

1. Core of the Gospel – Solution to Sin Problem!
2. Rephrase the question – “What Shall I Do?”

## #12 “Let Us Use Them”

Romans 12:1-8

### Introduction

1. Discovering our potential and applying our talents is crucial – Church and Life!
2. God expects us to use what has been given to us. See Matthew 25:14-30.

### Text

1. Based on God’s mercy we “Surrender” – v:1.
2. As we surrender we are “Transformed” – v:2.
3. Consequently, we think “Soberly” – v:3.
4. Henceforth, we use our talents to serve – vv:4-8.

### Discussion

1. See Yourself Correctly.
  - a. God has graciously saved you. See Eph. 2:8-10.
  - b. This should change your life. See Phil. 3:7-11.
2. Present Yourself Completely.
  - a. You are now a part of the Body of Christ.
  - b. You are a functioning member. See Rom 6:13.
  - c. You use your “Talents.” “Let us use them” – v:6!

### Conclusion

Jesus expects US to serve! See Mt. 20:20-28.

## #13 The Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

### Introduction

1. Sin separated man from God (Isa. 59:1-2).
2. Jesus reconciles man to God (Rom. 5:10-11).
3. And we have been given **The Ministry of Reconciliation!**

### Text

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. A new motivation – vv:14-15. | “God’s Love”     |
| 2. A new view – vv:16-17.       | “New Creature”   |
| 3. A new ministry – vv:18-19.   | “Reconciliation” |
| 4. A new function/title – v:20. | “Ambassador”     |
| 5. A new goal – v:21.           | “Righteousness”  |

### Application

1. Allow Love to Power You – vv:14-15. See Rom. 12:1.
2. Live as a New Person – vv:16-17. See Eph. 4:17-24.
3. Seize Your Purpose – vv:18-21. See 1 Pet. 2:9-12.

### Conclusion

1. Are we devoted?
2. The challenge is to allow our ministry to take over!

## #14 “Not a License to Sin”

Galatians 5:1-15

### Introduction

Some believe that God’s forgiving nature is a license to sin!

### Text

1. Galatians is about the Christian’s “Freedom in Christ.”
2. Paul was battling a reversion mindset that could not bring freedom – See 1:6-9, 2:4, 2:11-3:1, 3:19-29, 4:30-31, 5:2-4.
3. Circumcision was the issue of battle. Paul equates it with keeping the whole law (5:3).
4. This contradiction prompts the strong statement of 5:4.
5. So, the Christian now lives in Faith, Hope and Love – 5:5-6.
6. Don’t allow men to hinder you – 5:7-10.
7. If what false teachers were saying was true, why was Paul still being persecuted? 5:11-12.
8. So, don’t use grace as a license to sin – 5:13-15.
9. The context then flows nicely into 5:16-25. Led by Spirit!!!

### Application

1. The Old Testament is valuable – See Gal. 5:24 and Rom. 15:4.
2. Your Old life outside Christ is valuable – Experiences produce wisdom and resolve.
3. Your New life in Christ is invaluable – priceless! Rom. 6:7, 23. Hope! 1 Cor. 15:19-20, 57-58.
4. But, Your New life in Christ because of Grace is not a license to sin! See Rom. 6:1.

### Conclusion

Let us use our freedom in Christ to help others become free!

## #15 “Arise and Walk”

Matthew 9:1-8

### Introduction

Can you visualize witnessing Jesus’ actions? See Jn. 21:25.

### Text

1. Returned to Capernaum after doing amazing things (ch. 8).
2. Of utmost importance is man’s spiritual state – v:2.
3. Scribes accuse Jesus of Blasphemy (Sacrilege) – v:3. Came from evil hearts – v:4.
4. Revealing His link to Isa. 43:25, He heals him – vv:4-6.
5. The people were astonished – v:8.

### Application

1. Internal matters most. See Acts 8:21, Acts 13:22, 1 Sam. 16:7, Mk. 7:21-23. Also. 1 Cor. 13:1-3.
2. External is important too. See Mt. 5:16 and Gal. 2:20.
3. Two combined **SHOW** God’s power! See Col. 1:29.

### Conclusion

Will you “Arise and Walk?” Connect Rom. 6:4. Amazing!

## #16 “The Me I Want To Be”

Romans 7:1 – 8:1

### Introduction

All I want to be is a Christian! Sometimes “I” get in the way!

### Text

1. The law of Moses is holy, just & perfect – vv:1-12, esp. v:12.
2. The law identifies sin (v:7), but does not forever abolish it.
3. The law was to bring life, but instead brings death – vv:10,11.
4. Thus, the law is spiritual (Perfect), but man is flesh (Sinful).
5. Consequently, what I want to be (Desire good and hate evil) becomes a struggle – vv:13-23.
6. Who will deliver me? God through Jesus! – vv:24 – 8:1.

### Application

1. God’s word pinpoints me as a sinner – See Isa. 59:1-2; 1 Jn. 3:4; Rom. 3:10, 23. Sin brings separation – See Rom. 6:23.
2. God’s word isolates Jesus as my only Savior – See Acts 4:12. Also, 2 Cor. 5:21.
3. God’s word declares I’m no longer condemned – vv:24 – 8:1. Also, 2 Cor. 5:17.

### Conclusion

So, I can be what I want to be “In Him.” Are you in Him?

## #17 “People Helping People”

John 15:12-13 and James 5:19-20

### Introduction

The heroes of September 11,2001 awaken within us a mindset that is characteristically Christian – The liberation of precious people.

### Text

1. The Lord has given us a “Core Requirement.”
2. “Love” is a decision, a choice to “Genuinely care.”
3. The “How to” is specified. cf. Gal. 2:20, 1 Jn. 3:16.
4. The mark of an authentic disciple. cf. Jn. 13:34-35.
5. The verbs for “Love” are continuous action.
6. There is no “IF” attached. No “I’ll love you if ....”
7. When thru love we’re motivated ... good things come.

### Application

1. What does God’s love do for you? John 3:16.
2. What does God’s love do to you? 2 Cor. 5:14-15.
3. What does God’s love through you do for others? John 13:34-35.

### Conclusion

So, are you ready to roll?

## #18 “Vertical Worship”

John 4:23-24

### Introduction

What is worship? It is .... Title. Text. Context.

### Discussion

- I. Worship is About God, Not About Us!
- II. Worship Includes Human Expression and Human Experience! “Truth and Spirit.”
- III. Worship Can Be True or It Can Be False!
- IV. Worship Results in Change!

### Conclusion

1. Think of how “Worship” would be if it was all about God & nothing about us.
2. Is your worship Vertical?

## #19 “One Thing Leads to Another”

James 1:12-16

### Introduction

Our struggle is to keep from being broken up by sin (explain).

### Discussion

- I. Focus on the Crown. v:12.
- II. Keep Desires in Check. vv:13-15. Unrestrained desires bring death.
- III. Do Not Be Deceived. v:16. God doesn’t want us “Swindled” by Satan. See Jn. 8:44.

Conclusion: One Thing Can Lead to Another ... So ... (Review points).

## #20 “He Knows Your Name”

John 10:3-5

### Introduction

How do you feel when someone calls you by name? (Illustrate).

### Discussion

- I. This Confirms His Omnipotence.
- II. This Also Validates Your Significance.
- III. And This Forever Fortifies Your Devotion.

### Conclusion

1. *He Knows Your Name!* What does this do for you?
2. Now, is your name written in the book of Life? Rev. 20:15 & 3:5.

## #21 Stairway to Success

Daniel 1:8

### Introduction

“Success” --- “Achievement of one’s intention(s).” So, what are your intentions? Where are you going? How do you intend to get there?

### Text

1. God told Israel that a day of reckoning would come for their disobedience (Assyria 721BC for North and Babylon beginning 605 BC culminating 585 BC). Note: God is serious about obedience. See 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
2. Daniel and about 10,000 deported 605 BC for a specific purpose – vv:1-7. Satan has a specific purpose too! See 1 Pet. 5:8. Also, Rom. 6:16.
3. Daniel and his 3 friends were determined to obey God regardless of the consequences --- v:8. See Dan. 3:16-18 and 6:5,10.
4. God blessed Daniel for his commitment --- vv:9-21. See Dan. 3:28 and 6:25-28.

### Application. The “Stairway to Success”

1. Commit your heart to Jesus/God. See Matt. 15:19; Example Matt 18:35; Mk. 12:30,31.
2. Commit regardless of the consequences. See Job 1:22.
3. Renew this commitment every day. See Psalm 118:24.

### Conclusion

Are you climbing the *Stairway to Success*?

## #22 “When God Seems Far Away”

Job 23:8-12

### Introduction

Have you ever felt like God was “Far Away?” As if He didn’t care or just wasn’t listening? Job tells what we should do “When God Seems Far Away.” Read Job 23:8-12.

### Text

1. “Forward” and “Backward” – the Hebrew points of a compass. i.e. “Everywhere” 360°.
2. He did not “Perceive” God’s presence – sense, recognize, identify or feel.
3. v:9 – Job acknowledges God’s continuing movement, even if not felt. Faith!
4. He was confident that God knew the truth about his life and that in the end his integrity would be proved (v:10).
- e. He knew he had followed God and obeyed His commands (vv:11-12).

### Application

1. Tell God How You Feel. Throughout the book Job unloads his heart.
2. Concentrate on Who God Is. Job did not forget God. See Job 1:22, 2:10 & 10:12.
3. Believe That God Will Keep His Promise(s). See Job 13:15.
4. Remember His Goodness. Job had a handle on God’s past goodness and his present course. See Job 1:21 and 2:10.

### Conclusion:

*When God Seems Far Away*, you know what to do (Review). Will you hold to God’s unchanging hand?

## #23 “God Chose a Father for His Son”

Matthew 1:18-25

### Introduction

Father's Day! We live in a day, though, when some men are abdicating their roles as dad (Explain). Walking away. Surrendering responsibility!

### Text

1. Mary usually receives most of the attention.
2. God also selected a husband for Mary & father for Jesus – Joseph.
3. Joseph is referred to as a “Just Man.” Upright!
4. He was not Jesus' biological father (See Isa. 7:14), but his love for Jesus is evident!
5. He was known as a carpenter. See Matt. 13:55. Worked! Provided!

Application So, What is the picture provided by Joseph?

1. Dads are needed. Eph. 6:4.
2. Dads obey God. See Heb. 11:6, 5:8-9.
3. Dads love. See Rom. 12:9.
4. Dad's provide. See 1 Tim. 5:8.
4. Dads are prudent. See Prov. 15:2.
5. Dads show the way. In Life. In Spirit. See Prov. 4:1, Acts 13:22.

### Conclusion

Dads, let's rise up and show our kids ....

## #24 “An Exhortation Regarding Our Nation”

2 Chronicles 7:14

### Introduction

There is little doubt that our nation was founded upon biblical principles. This we celebrate!

### Text

1. 7:1-2 and 7:12-15 is God's response to Solomon's prayer in 6:12-40.
2. We see Israel's response to God in 7:3.
3. Everything is summarized in 7:14. “My People” – “Called by My name” – “Humble Themselves” – “Pray” – “Seek My Face” – “Turn from Their Wicked Ways” – “Hear” – “Forgive” – “Heal.” Wow!

### Application

1. God's Blessing is Conditional! See 1 Jn. 1:7.
2. God's Blessing is Indispensable! See Phil. 4:19.
3. God's Blessing is Cause for Rejoicing! See Phil 4:4-7.

### Conclusion

What is your prayer for our nation?

## #25 “The Precious Privilege of Prayer”

Matthew 6:5-13

### Introduction

Prayer is a powerful tool (Illustrate). Privilege=opportunity, honor, joy!

### Discussion

- I. Prayer is a Personal Matter (vv:5-6). “Secret”
- II. Prayer Should Be Fresh (vv:7-8). Vain repetitions! Should be fresh, alive, meaningful.
- III. Prayer Should Be Specific (vv:9-13). To God. Reverence. Church. God's Will. Physical needs. Spiritual needs. Guidance. Deliverance. Church. Praise.

### Conclusion

Prayer is a special moment ... one to be valued.



## #26 “Life With The Risen Lord”

John 20:19-21

### Introduction

Life with Jesus/God is fantastic. See Mt. 28:20, Heb. 13:5.

### Discussion

- I. Life with The Risen Lord Calms Our Fears. v:19. They had fear. His presence creates confidence!
- II. Life with The Risen Lord Restores Our Joy. v:20. The “saw” Him! Joy resulted!
- III. Life with The Risen Lord Anchors Us in Hope. v:21. They had future expectations!

### Conclusion

How is your life with the Risen Lord?

## #27 “Which One Are You?”

Proverbs 9:7-12

### Introduction

1. We ask the question, “*Which One Are You?*” – wise or foolish?
2. King Solomon helps us with the answer in Proverbs 9:7-12.

### Text

1. Contrast is between a “Scoffer” (Mocker) and a “Wise Man.”
2. Try to instruct a scoffer and receive “Insults” and “Abuse” (v:7).
3. A wise man is teachable, appreciative, just and godly (vv:8-9).
4. Wisdom begins by recognizing the truth about God (v:10) – Creator, Father, “Holy One”, God!
5. Wisdom continues by craving knowledge.
6. The spirit of desiring God’s word and willingness to accept personal change brings great reward (v:11).
7. The contrast is summarized in v:12.

### Application

1. Have you ever met a “Scoffer,” mocker, someone who just wouldn’t listen?
2. Have you ever met someone who just wanted to be God’s person and humbly, tenderly sought His will?
3. Which one are you? See Josh 24:15.

### Conclusion

1. Today and every day we have a decision to make.
2. Close with Ex. 32:26 – “Whoever is on the Lord’s side – come to me.”

## #28 “YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CANNOT HIDE”

Jonah 1

### Introduction

For whatever reason often times we just want to run and hide.

### Discussion

- I. God Expects His People to Do His Will. The mandate is very clear!
- II. His People Sometimes Try to Avoid “Getting It Done.” Many run away, hide or just simply procrastinate.
- III. God Always Has the Final Say. Like Jonah, we cannot hide from God ... we will answer.

### Conclusion

Will you run to God and embrace His will?

## #29 “Giving Back”

1 John 4:19

### Introduction

Jesus is the greatest gift!

### Discussion

- I. God’s Love is Obvious. He made the first move & showed His love. Rom. 5:6-8.
- II. God’s Love is Abundant. He overwhelms us by His gift and continued blessings.
- III. God’s Love Gives Rise to Our Love. Does God’s love cause you to love? See 2 Thess. 3:5

### Conclusion

1. Are you saying with every thought, word and action ... “God I love you”?

### #30 “Walk Circumspectly”

Ephesians 5:15-17

#### Introduction

Being cautious and wise in your living (Illustrate).

#### Discussion

- I. Exercise Wisdom. Put into practice the knowledge that you obtain. See Prov. 2:1-17.
- II. Treasure Time. Time is our most precious resource. Use it well! See Jas. 4:13-17.
- III. Study Often. Acquire and remind yourself of what is important! 2 Tim. 2:15.

#### Conclusion

Eccl. 12:13-14. May this be our daily conclusion!

### #31 “What the World Needs Now”

Luke 10:25-37

#### Introduction

Showing God’s mercy & grace to others is a good thing.

#### Discussion

- I. The World Doesn’t Need the “Heartless.” v:30. Callous, cruel, cold-blooded, care-less.
- II. The World Doesn’t Need “Religious Pretenders.” vv:29, 31-32. Those who say & do not do!  
See Jas. 1:22.
- III. The World Does Need God’s Love. vv:33-35. See 1 Jn. 3:16-18.

#### Conclusion

1. vv:36-37. The challenge from Him is very clear!

### #32 “Finding Your Focus”

Colossians 3:1-4

#### Introduction

This concept has forever been a Christian principle. See 1 Peter 2:9-12.

#### Text

1. Converted people (Col. 2:12-13) seek heavenly things (v:1). See Phil. 3:20.
2. Converted people possess a different mindset (v:2). See 1 Cor. 2:16.
3. “Seek” and “Set” are two revealing words.
  - a. Relentless Pursuit – Never-ending hunt!
  - b. Established fixed attention – Only Jesus matters.
4. The reason for this focus and passion is clear (vv:3-4).

#### Application

1. Focus on “Heavenly Treasure.” See Matt. 6:19-21.
2. Focus on the “Mind of Christ.” See Phil. 2:5-11.
3. Focus on “Right Living.” See 2 Cor. 5:14-15.
4. Focus on the “Promise.” See 1 John 3:2 & John 14:1-3.

#### Conclusion

Find your focus – your niche – your passion – and go!

### #33 Roll The Stone Away!

John 20:1-21

#### Introduction

Everything depends on this event being true (Illustrate).

#### Text

1. The stone was rolled away. See Mk. 16:3.
2. His body was not there – v:2. Basis for gospel!
3. Mary told Peter & John who investigated.
4. Mary encountered two angels, then Jesus!
5. Mary told the disciples. Natural reaction!
6. The disciples meet Jesus and are commissioned! v:21. Assignment - mission!!!

#### Application

1. The tomb is empty! Hope – 1 Cor. 15:12-20.
2. The stone is rolled away! Life – Eph. 2:11-22.
3. The Mission has begun! Task – 1 Cor. 9:16.

#### Conclusion

Are you engaged in the Mission?

## #34 “Will He Find You Watching?”

*Ready for His Coming*

Luke 12:35-48

### **Introduction**

Preparing and watching pays off (Illustrate).

### **Text**

1. Be ready for your Master’s return (vv:35-36). Prepared!
2. Prepared person will be “Blessed” (vv:37-38). “Watching”
3. An eye-opening warning (vv:39-40). Sudden! Unexpected!
4. Be a “Faithful and Wise” steward (vv:41-44). Manager!
5. Unfaithful stewards will be punished (vv:45-48).
6. Meaning of this parable is absolutely clear. See 1 Cor. 4:2.

### **Application**

1. God has expectations for you. See Col. 3:12-17.
2. God will demand an accounting from you. See 2 Cor. 5:10.
3. God intends for you to be ready all the time. See 2 Pet. 3:10-18.

### **Conclusion**

1. Are you Watching? Observing? Examining? Refining?
2. The challenge is always before us! *Will He Find You Watching?*

## #35 “What to Do When You Don’t Know What to Do”

Exodus 14:10-15

### **Introduction**

Have you ever been stunned and didn’t know exactly what to do? (Illustrate)

### **Text**

1. Bondage 400 years. After God’s power (Plagues), led by Moses & threatened by Pharaoh.
2. Fear arose. Didn’t know what to do! Trusted self!
3. Appeared bleak. No escape. Jagged rocks, sea & the army (Knew their strength/rage very well).
4. Some prayed. Blamed Moses. Longed for the old days. Didn’t know what to do.
5. Moses said, “Rise above your fears.” Here’s *What to Do When You Don’t Know What to Do*.

### **Application**

1. “Do Not Be Afraid.” Fear can silence faith, hope, love and resolve.
2. “Stand Still and See.” The power in the fight belongs to God.
3. Move! God expects His children, since they KNOW Him, to move, to act, to go!

### **Conclusion**

Rise above your fears & uncertainties & trust God!

## #36 “Blessed Are You Among Women”

Luke 1:26-38

### **Introduction**

Often mothers have their hands full ... but it is a blessing!

### **Discussion**

- I. “Rejoice.”
  - a. Mary was to be “Glad” for her *station* in life.
  - b. Joy should “Surround” motherhood.
- II. “Highly Favored One.”
  - a. God’s favor was on Mary as the mother of our Lord.
  - b. God’s “eye” is on all moms. In your corner! They are special! See Jn. 19:26-27, Gen. 21:17-20
- III. “The Lord is With You.”
  - a. Mary gained strength by this proclamation!
  - b. Does His presence strengthen you? Rom. 8:31-39.

### **Conclusion**

1. See v:37 and Mary’s response in v:38. Words to live by!!!
2. Are you honoring mothers?

## **#37 Amazed By the Majesty of God**

*The Thoughts & Life Produced by Jesus*

Luke 9:43

### **Introduction**

Every day I am amazed by God (Explain). "Majesty" = Magnificence!

### **Discussion**

- I. Amazed by What We See.
  - a. God in the physical & spiritual. Rom. 1:20 & 12:1-2.
  - b. Open your eyes and see! See Ps. 34:8; 2 Kgs. 16:7.
- II. Amazed by What We Hear.
  - a. His word instructs and excites. See Heb. 4:12.
  - b. Open your ears to the "Good News." Lk. 11:28.
- III. Amazed by What We Have.
  - a. Promises now and forever. See Jer. 17:7-8.
  - b. Open your heart to His blessings. See 2 Pt. 1:3.
- IV. Amazed by What Jesus/God Did.
  - a. God's gracious gift to save us. See Jn. 3:16.
  - b. Open your life to His gift. See 2 Cor. 9:15.

### **Conclusion**

When you encounter God, you stand in awe (Amazement, wonder, reverence) of Him!

## **#38 Don't Look Back**

Luke 17:32 and 1 Timothy 1:12-17

### **Introduction**

Looking back can be good and bad (Illustrate).

### **Text**

1. The context of Lk. 17:32 is vv:20-37.
  - a. Kingdom would come w/o fanfare (unlike earthly kingdoms - Jn. 18:36) - vv:20-21.
  - b. Jesus would be rejected & leave, Jewish system destroyed by Romans - vv:22-30.
  - c. Don't look back ... look forward! vv:31-37.
2. Paul's focus was not upon his days outside of Christ (Guilt, depression) - vv:13,15. Rather, he focused on being in Christ & the privilege of a glorious work & future – vv:12-17.

### **Application**

1. Look forward because the past is covered.
2. Look forward because the present is fabulous.
3. Look forward because the future is bright.

### **Conclusion**

Are your eyes forward --- looking to glory?

## **#39 "Be Still And Know That I Am God"**

Psalms 46:10

### **Introduction**

Does God speak loud enough? Creation? Blessings? Word? Providence? People? Logic? Etc.

### **Text**

1. Safety and courage are found in God – vv:1-3. Thus v:2.
2. The Lord's "Presence" means "Peace" – vv:4-7.
3. God will be exalted by His "Creation" – vv:8-11.
4. So, clear away noise and clutter and hear – v:10.

### **Application**

1. Be Still so You Can Hear (Open Your Ears). Rev. 2 & 3.
2. Be Alert so You Can See (Open Your Eyes).
  - a. To God's calling – 2 Thess. 2:13-14.
  - b. To the devil's leading – 1 Pet. 5:8-9.
3. Be Humble so You Can Learn (Open Your Heart). 1 Pet. 5:5-6, Jas. 4:10, Rom. 12:16.

### **Conclusion**

2. Are you "Hearing God?"

## #40 “Setting Godly Priorities”

Matthew 6:33

### Introduction

Deciding what is important is critical (Illustrate).

### Text

1. v:33 is wrapped up in the context of “Worry.”
2. People of the world focus on things of the world. Their concern, attention and drive is there.
3. People of God focus on the things of God – namely the kingdom and God’s righteousness!
4. Consequently, the people of God are blessed.
5. It takes “Seeking” – “Looking for” or “Hunting for.” Relentless effort!
6. An imperative for the Christian – a command.

### Application

1. Where is your focus? See Heb. 12:1-2.
2. Upon whom do you trust? See Ps. 4:3-5.
3. How serious are you about it? See 2 Cor. 5:9.
4. How can we help one another to do this? See Heb. 10:24.

### Conclusion

What are the “First Things” in your life?

## #41 “An ‘Achan’ Heart”

Joshua 7:1-26

### Introduction

Sometimes the deep places of our hearts are affected!

### Text

1. Israel’s confidence was high because of Jericho (vv:2-3).
2. Confidence turned to uncertainty (vv:4-9). Defeat does this!!!
3. Israel had a sin problem (vv:1, 10-26). It needed tackled!!!
4. Israel did ... it was difficult ... but it worked (See ch. 8).

### Application

1. My sin ... God knows every detail (v:11). Many, like Achan, “Bury” their sins!!!
2. My sin not only hurts me ... it hurts others & God (vv:1-9).
3. My sin must be addressed (vv:12-26).
4. My sin, once addressed, turns to victory (Josh. 8:1-35).

### Conclusion

Will you search the deep places of your heart?

## #42 Coming to Terms With The Authority of Christ

Mark 1:21-28

### Introduction

“Authority” – “Right to command; Holder of power; Power given to somebody; Source of reliable information” (Encarta).

### Text

1. Four disciples and Jesus to Capernaum (Galilean ministry “hub”).
2. On the Sabbath, Jesus went to worship. Obviously invited to teach.
3. His teaching was different from the religious teachers of the day – He taught with “Authority.” “Astonished.” His “Content” was as if coming from the “Source.” Jn. 7:46.
4. Jesus’ authoritative teaching prompted an outburst (vv:23-24).
5. Demon also knew why these folks were “Astonished” (v:24).
6. Jesus had “Authority” over this evil spirit (vv:25-26). “Be quiet”
7. People were “Amazed” (v:27). Different word than v:22. “Astonished with fear.”
8. Who could keep this news to themselves? V:28. “Spread.”

### Application

1. Who is this Jesus? V:24. Rom. 1:4, 1 Jn. 2:1-2, Acts 2:36.
2. What does He command? Acts 2:37-38, Rom. 6:4, Lk. 9:23, 2 Cor. 6:17, Col. 3:12-17.
3. What will I do? Acts 22:16, Tit. 2:11-14, Jas. 1:27, Mt. 11:4.

### Conclusion

Will you allow Jesus and His Words to be your guide?

## #43 “Say ‘No’ To Discouragement”

Psalm 42:5

### Introduction

Discouragement is a battle most people have (Give examples).

### Discussion

- I. Return to the Lord - “Go Back” to the source of “Hope” ... God.
- II. Radiate for the Lord - “Glow with” or “Exude” the Spirit of God.
- III. Rely on the Lord - “Trust” in God’s true, unfailing promises!
- III. Rejoice in the Lord - “Joy” comes from God’s presence with us!

### Conclusion

Like David, Is God your eternal rock?

## #44 “You Can See God in His Eyes”

Exodus 34:29-35

### Introduction

You can tell a lot about what’s in a person’s heart by looking at their eyes (Illustrate).

### Discussion

- I. It Comes from Being in God’s Presence – Moses changed by being in God’s company!
- II. It Comes from Knowing God’s Message – Moses changed because He knew God will!
- III. It Comes from Welcoming God’s Purpose – Moses embraced God’s objective.

### Conclusion

Do people see God in you? See Acts 4:13.

## #45 “A Grateful Man”

1 Timothy 1:12-17

### Introduction

An attitude of gratitude energizes people (Illustrate).

### Discussion

- I. Grateful for God’s Grace.
  - a. His past life was forgiven (vv:13-15). Formerly blasphemer ... chief sinner ... but .... Eph. 2:1-10.
  - b. Overwhelmed! See Romans 5:1-11.
- II. Grateful for His New Direction.
  - a. He had a “New Road” in front of him (vv:16-17). Relaying forgiveness and expressing praise!
  - b. Motivated! See Romans 12:1-2. Also 1 Cor. 15:57-58.

### Conclusion

Are you a grateful person?

## #46 “Biblical Leaders”

1 Peter 5:1-4

### Introduction

Leaders are needed (Illustrate).

### Discussion

- I. Their Duty. Shepherd & Oversee. Acts 20:28.
- II. Their Motive. Selfless Service. Rom. 12:1.
- III. Their Hope. “Crown.” 2 Tim. 4:6-8. Jn. 14:1-3.
- IV. Their Spirit. Humility ... fellow elder. 1 Pet. 5:6-7.
- V. Their Help. God’s Grace & power. Mt. 20:28.

### Conclusion

Biblical leaders inspire biblical followers.

## # 47 The Father's Business

Luke 2:41-51, esp. v:49

### Introduction

1. What is important to you? It shows! (Illustrate).
2. Our lives reveal what or who is at the center.

### Text

1. Note the spirit of Jesus – commitment, undivided, necessity (captured in the word “must”) and untainted submission. He knew His calling or purpose!
2. Note the confusion of Jesus – Everyone should have this same purpose – Why ask?? Why be surprised??
3. Note His purpose – “The Father’s Business.” See Jn. 4:34, 5:17, 5:36. See Rom 5:1-11.

### Application

1. What spirit do you have? Committed! Undivided! Urgent! Untainted! See 2 Cor. 5:14-15.
2. What work are you about? See 2 Cor. 5:9. See Eph. 2:1-10.

### Conclusion

Are you a Christian for life, in life and about life?

## #48 Inner Renewal

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

### Introduction

Renewal – “being made new, fresh, or strong again.”

### Text

1. There is a reason Paul didn’t “Lose Heart” – vv:1, 16.  
The “Light of God is Shining thru Jesus” – vv:1-6.
2. Christians are vessels to convey God’s message/power – v:7.
3. The task is not easy – vv:8-11. But it is vital – v:12.
4. Christians can’t help but speak – vv:13-15. Esp. v:15.
5. Thus the inward is renewed every day because Christians “See” Him – vv:16-18 – Know their destiny – 5:1.

### Application

1. Allow God’s Light to Wash You. See 1 Jn. 1:5-7.
2. Allow God’s Grace to Refresh You. See Titus 2:11-14.
3. Allow God’s Hope to Sustain You. See Rom. 5:1-2.
4. Allow God’s Vision to Guide You. See Heb. 11:27.

### Conclusion

1. Jeremiah 29:11.
2. Will you allow God to wash, refresh, sustain & guide you?

## #49 Habits of Holiness

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

### Introduction

Do you realize that habits, both the good ones and the bad ones, are difficult to break?

A “Habit” is a “Regularly repeated pattern of behavior.

### Text

1. In the context, the apostle had just completed speaking about the misuse of the body through sexual immorality (vv:9-18).
2. The reason we are to use our bodies correctly (For spiritual purposes) is because God lives in us (See Acts 2:38) and because **HE PAID** the price to save us! – vv:19-20.
3. “Do you not know” (v:18) is an expression indicating that every child of God should already be aware of this truth!
4. “You are not your own” (v:18) simply means that you belong to God (v:19). See 2 Cor. 5:14.
5. The need to break bad habits and formulate good ones is always present.

### Application What do we need to know to develop *Habits of Holiness*?

1. Know to Whom you belong. See Gal. 3:26-29.
2. Know the price paid for you. See Acts 20:28.
3. Know the goal for your life. See Col. 3:1-4.

### Conclusion

Does your life reflect *Habits of Holiness*?

## **#50 “Positive Thoughts for Christian Living”**

Philippians 4:8

### **Introduction**

There are “Things” upon which we are to “Think.” “Meditate” (Think) governs verse!

### **Body**

- I. Whatever is True – Integrity. Honesty. Regard for truth. Eph.4:25.
- II. Whatever is Noble – Decent, respectful, dignified behavior. Mt. 5:16
- III. Whatever is Just – Right. Indicates there are wrongs! Jas. 4:17.
- IV. Whatever is Pure – Uncontaminated. Clean. Holy! 1 Pet. 1:15-16, 2:9.
- V. Whatever is Lovely – Beautiful. Attractive. Pleasing! 2 Tim. 1:4-5.
- VI. Whatever is of Good Report – Positive news and images. 1 Thess. 3:6.
- VII. Whatever is of Any Virtue – Good quality. See 1 Cor. 13:7.
- VIII. Whatever is Praiseworthy – Commendable. Admirable. See Ps. 51:15.

### **Conclusion**

1. Col. 3:1-4. Set your mind “Above.”! Are you?
2. Are you “Meditating” on Good Things?



