

Life Group Notes 8/18/2024

Pastor Mark Warren You Are Not Your Own Week 5

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 4/7. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On S. Truett Cathy and Chik-Fil-A](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

During worship, Michelle spoke of the loss of her job after years of faithful effort.

1. Have you had similar experiences?
2. What did you do?
3. Do you have advice to offer Michelle?
4. What does worshipping God through the trial do?
5. What did David do when he was greatly distressed? (Look up 1 Samuel 30: ...**5**David's two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel, had been taken captive. **6**[And David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of every man grieved for his sons and daughters. But David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.](#))
6. Look at the details that were included in verse six. What do you see? How bad did it get for David?
7. Read the account. What changed after David had encouraged himself?

Pastor opened his discussion by talking about the "fall rhythms."

1. What changes for you at the end of August?
2. When does that change begin for you?

He spoke of S. Truett Cathy, founder of Chik-Fil-A ([see footnote below](#)) and how dedication to Christ's call authored the policies of his chain of restaurants.

1. What do you know of Chik-Fil-A? Have you ever eaten there?

2. What makes the fast-food chain different?
3. Is that difference noticeable?

Review the basis of these messages. Look up 1 Corinthians 6: **19***Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20**you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.*

1. What have you learned so far from this series of messages?
2. Through this series, we realize our money is not our own. Our kids are not our own. And today we discover that our jobs are not our own. Our time is not our own. Have you been able to discuss any questions that arose from these messages?
3. Do you have any?

Pastor Mark talks about our purpose in each of our jobs. Look up 2 Corinthians 5: **13***If we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. **14**For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, therefore all died. **15**And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again.: **16**So from now on we regard no one according to the flesh. Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17**Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! **18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19**that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20**Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God. **21**God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

1. What do you see?
2. Paul says, "...therefore all died." Who is included?
3. Who is left out? Do they know they are not excluded at your workplace?
4. Look at the people you work with. Does anything change in your own attitude with this in mind, as you look at them?
5. Do you walk by what you see in your co-workers? Or by what you foresee in them through the promise of scripture?
6. Do you judge according to what you see? Or according to what you foresee? Explain.
7. What does it mean to be an "ambassador?"
8. How does your own job description change? Whom do you represent?
9. Mark asks, "How well do you represent Jesus in your workplace or at school?" Answer him.
10. Does this question make you feel uncomfortable?

Look up 2 Corinthians 5: **1***Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is dismantled, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by*

human hands. **2**For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, **3**because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. **4**So while we are in this tent, we groan under our burdens, because we do not wish to be unclothed but clothed, so that our mortality may be swallowed up by life. **5**And God has prepared us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a pledge of what is to come. **6**Therefore we are always confident, although we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord. **7**For we walk by faith, not by sight.

1. What is our earthly “tent”?
2. What happens when our bodies are “dismantled”?
3. How do we know this? (Hint: What did Jesus promise in John 14:**1**“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God: believe in Me as well. **2**In My Father’s house are many dwelling places/lodgings. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am. **4**You know the way to the place where I am going.”)
4. What makes you groan in your present lodging? Why is life so hard?
5. What is being tested?
6. How does Truett Cathy’s story exemplify the life of an ambassador?
7. Describe how a walk by faith is different from a walk by sight. When you walk by faith, how do you get your bearings to walk straight?
8. Robby Dawkins, a bold evangelist, says, “Faith is spelled R-I-S-K.” Explain.

Paul continues in 2 Corinthians 5:**9**So we make it our aim to please Him, whether we are here in this body or away from it. **10**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.

1. Is this your aim?
2. What changes if this becomes your purpose?
3. How sobering is verse 10 for you?
4. Look at verse 10. Is this a threat? Or is this only news that we all know already, in essence a review?
5. What is the implication? What if what’s done in the body is good? What if what’s done in the body is evil?

Mark goes on to the next verses in the same chapter 2 Cor 5:**11**Therefore, since we know what it means to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is clear to God, and I hope it is clear to your conscience as well. **12**We are not commending ourselves to you again. Instead, we are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you can answer those who take pride in appearances rather than in the heart.

1. What does it mean to fear God?
2. If “The fear of the Lord is [only] the **beginning** of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10), why is it vital to know the answer to question one from the start?

3. Look at verse 12. In your own words, what is Paul doing?
4. How does having someone you are proud of serve as an encouragement and an example for you?
5. How proud are you of Paul? How does that help?
6. How grateful are you for Paul? Have you told God that?

Look back at 2 Cor 5:17 ([above](#)) **17** *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!* **18** *All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.* Mark says, not only does the message proclaim that you are reconciled to God, but it commissions you to bring that reconciliation to others. Your purpose is not only to point people to Jesus so they can be reconciled to the Father in heaven who loves them, but also to be reconciled to one another,

1. If the devil only comes to steal, kill and destroy, how does this commission form a strong weapon, hard-wired security, against any attack?
2. If, in our workplace, there is division; if there are those who are hurting, distanced from God, not understanding God's love, forgiveness and suffering from broken relationships, how does what we have as a gift become a weapon in our hands against Satan's strongholds?
3. Now describe again your own call to be an ambassador. How important has your own position at work or at school become?
4. How have your own priorities changed?
5. Mark brings us to Colossians 3: **23** *Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men,* **24** *because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving* How does this fit?
6. If you accept this exhortation, what is the reward at your workplace? What do your co-workers see?
7. What is the inheritance? From whom is it received? For whom are you working? (Who is your "boss?")
8. How does your work or your studies become an act of worship?
9. How does work and study become an act of forward-looking prophecy?
10. Now look at what Jesus told us in Matthew 5: **14** *You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* How does this fit?
11. How is being "Christ's ambassador" at work equal to being a light?
12. What does it take to make a light shine?

13. Imagine a candle lit in Carlsbad Cavern. How does the darkness change? What is revealed?
14. How much work does the candle need to do, once it's lit, for the entire cavern to be transformed into a wonder of the world?
15. Pastor asks, "When is the last time someone looked at your works and said, 'God is good'?" Answer him. Do you have a testimony?
16. When you know God has called you and placed you in your position, what changes for you? For your classmates or workmates?

Pastor Mark adds, "When your job is not your own, or your school is not your own, you start engaging it with purpose."

1. How does it help to know you are on assignment?
2. How does it change things to know Who your boss is?

Pastor offers practical example of how to be living as ambassadors of Christ in your mission field. (He adds, "Students, going back to school...Your school is your mission field." Explain.)

- Start your day with prayer. Begin your day by dedicating your workday to God. Pastor says, "Dedicating your life to God is not about preaching wherever you go. It's about letting your life preach." Explain.
- Look for service opportunities. Be intentional about serving others in small, meaningful ways. "God has equipped us to serve others. In a world that wants to be self-absorbed, we have to be counter-cultural and realize that it is not about ourselves, it's all about others and how I represent Jesus in the face of their needs."
- Be a person of integrity. Let your actions speak louder than your word. Strive for excellence and honesty and diligence even when no one is watching. God is always watching, and He sees.
- Build genuine relationships. Pastor says, "Step away from being transactional and become interested in your neighbor as a person." Figure out how to serve somebody else's life. Go beyond the casual, "How're you doing," to discover how they really are doing. Really listen. This gives insights into how to approach them in the future. Watch what happens when folks discover that you actually care.
- Share your story. When the time is right, be ready to share your testimony. Become filled with wonder from how God has invested in you, and be ready to share why you are. Acknowledge that these are hard times, and share how you know that He never leaves us or forsakes you.
- Invite someone to join you. Invite a co-worker or a classmate to a church service. People are waiting for the invitation. Realize that right now, today, people are hungering for Truth. They hunger for the Genuine. They are hungering for Jesus. He asks, "Do you dare?"
- Do what it takes to continue growing in your faith. An effective ambassador has a vibrant, attractive life in Jesus. Are your stories old? Or do you have

discoveries you made recently? What steps do you take in your pursuit of Jesus that you can pass on? Mark says, "If you don't have anything fresh, what can you offer that is fresh to others?" Answer him. Do you have a testimony, where something you learned became the catalyst for discovery for others?

Mark points out, "I'm up here, but you are the ones people see in your home, in your schools and in your workplace. You are His representatives."

1. Who is more instrumental to the working of the Gospel? The pastor or the congregation. Explain.
2. When does the role of the pastor and the role of the listener become equal?
3. Paul says, "*God has placed in the body apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists for the perfection of the saints for the work of the ministry?*" Thinking of today's message, what is the work of the ministry?
4. How do the saints become perfected?
5. How do the saints become the ministers?
6. How do we become the next group of apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists? For what purpose?

Mark concludes by returning to the impact of Chik-Fil-A and Truett Cathy.

1. What did he accomplish?
2. What steps did Truett take?
3. Which of these steps can you take?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Knowing that you represent Jesus at your workplace, write down a new job description, as you would imagine your own embassy at your workplace. Pray to that end. Write down any changes as the week progresses.
3. Make your aim to please God at work. List what changes you need to make.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On S. Truett Cathy and Chik-Fil-A**—Here is a great web site with the story of the founder and the founding of Chik-Fil-A and what made the fast-food chain what it is today. <https://www.mashed.com/256322/the-untold-truth-of-chick-fil-a-founder-s-truett-cathy/> Although it's always closed on Sunday, here are four locations within 30 miles of Grace Capital: <https://www.chick-fil-a.com/locations?locationsearch=03275&menuItem=>
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For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Psalm 119:174-176
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 30:6
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
Thursday: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Friday: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
Saturday: 2 Corinthians 5:1-5
Sunday: John 14:1-4

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.