

“We train disciplemakers...”



Hurried?
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Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

The impact of one women's life

Join us in a conversation with “Michelle,” a teacher in the Wichita area whose life was changed and how she impacts other young women for the Lord.

[Making Disciples
Naturally Podcast](#)

Men, mark your calendars for our Spring Men's Retreat
March 31 - April 1, 2023
at Crosswind Conference Center, Hesston, KS

Longing to hear “well done” from the lips of Jesus

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Do you feel rushed? What's the hurry?

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Mike Treneer brings dynamic messages



Mr. Mike Treneer spoke at our Fall Conference of about 90 attendees October 29 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Wichita. He shared with us from 1 Thessalonians concerning how the Apostle Paul taught us to advance the Gospel of Jesus **with power** (Paul's evangelistic methods: 1 Thess. 1:1-2:13), **with prayer** (Paul's long-term aim: 1 Thess. 2:7-3:13) and **by discipling** (Paul's focus on transformed lives and communities: 1 Thess. 4:1-5:28).

He reminded us that the weapons we use to fight this spiritual battle are not human weapons (“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds” 2 Corinthians 10:3,4). They are the all-powerful weapons of the power of **prayer**, the power of **example** and the power of **God's Word** - the Gospel - as well as the awesome power of **love**.

Paul had a long-term vision for the people to whom he ministered. He had a vision for them to stand firm (1 Thessalonians 3:8) and for their lives to overflow to others (1 Thessalonians 3:12). Paul gave the example to us of his personal involvement and care in the lives of others.

Mike's messages will soon be available to watch and listen to on our website.

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“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that the extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NET Bible)

The Listening Road

Recently we ran across an interesting “docu-series” on the free app “Redeem TV.” (This is also available for free online through a browser.) This series tells the story of a bike-across-America trip by Pastor Neil Tomba from the Dallas area. His goal was to ride about 100 miles per day, and have “two significant conversations with people per day.”

Pastor Tomba pastors at Northwest Bible Church in Dallas. In 2019 he set out to ride across the US in about 30 days. On the way he wanted to engage in meaningful conversations with people about God, Jesus and the church. He wanted to just ask questions and listen, letting people share whatever they wished. The results were most interesting.

Some of his questions were “Do you ever get the chance to talk to people about spiritual things?” “Do you ever talk or think about Jesus?” “What do you think about the church?” Over and over again, he shares the love of Jesus with people and people really respond to this approach.

You can watch the series for free on RedeemTV or at <https://www.neiltomba.com>. A book is also available. It gave us some great ideas for engaging people in spiritual conversations.



Goads and Nails

“Freely accept them and seek their good”
—Lorne Sanny— Vol. 3, pages 5-7

By Richard Spann

The above words were used by Lorne to summarize in a practical way the teaching found in I John 3:18. “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” Very often we are left with a fuzzy concept of what it means not to just talk about loving others, but to demonstrate love with actions and in truth. I have discovered that the statements “freely accept them,” and “seek their good” get us started on the right path in our relationship with others.

It was a day similar to all the others in my medical practice. I had left one hospital and arrived at the second one that morning. As I entered the doctor’s lounge I saw a group of about twenty physicians, residents and medical students gathered around a television set, all watching in silence. As I walked toward the group watching a tall building burn, a plane veered toward a second building and struck it near the top in a fiery crash of smoke and fire. We all watched the scene in horror that morning as we were all introduced to what has been come to be known as 9/11. One young man separated himself from the others and came to me. He was the resident assigned to me for September and October of that year, a Muslim. For the next seven weeks we met, discussed the patients in depth and he watched as I would pray for the patients and at times would talk to them about Christ. We developed a friendship which led to lunches together, tennis games, and dinners with our wives. This relationship developed into a request on his part that I write a letter to the State Department on his behalf for the purpose of allowing him to stay in the United States after he completed his residency training. Although unable to stay in our country we heard from a mutual friend that they were desirous of looking into the Gospel with Beverly and me, but were reluctant to do so because of fear of the Muslim community here in Wichita. It is our hope that these seeds of interest have been nurtured by the Lord since that time. The Lord, in His Grace, had allowed us an opportunity to freely accept them and to seek their good.

... “He is a friend of sinners,” (freely accept them) and “He saved others.....but he can’t save himself.” (seek their good) The life of our Lord was continually committed to freely accepting others and seeking their good. May His Spirit so manifest the life of Christ in us so that His acceptance of others and His seeking their good is made evident in and through our lives.

In Christ, Richard Spann

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

Do you long to hear “Well done”? ... by David Dennis

As a child, it was my goal to please my parents. They were faithfully at most of my activities, even my clumsy attempts at playing basketball! They would encourage me and tell me they were proud of me, even if I didn't measure up to the skills of others. Is it your and my goal to hear similar words of commendation from our Lord Jesus?

Several times in Scripture we are warned to wait for, to long for, to look for and to be ready for the return of our Lord Jesus.

1 Thess. 1:10 NKJV - “and **to wait for** His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, [even] Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

2 Timothy 4:8 NIV - “Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have **longed for** his appearing.”

Titus 2:13 NKJV -“**looking for** the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”

Matthew 24:44 NKJV - “Therefore you also **be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

In the verses immediately following Matthew 24:44, Jesus gives us a picture of a faithful and wise servant in Matthew 24:45-47 when He says, “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed [is] that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.”



Who is that “faithful and wise” servant to which Jesus is referring? I ask myself, “Am I a faithful and wise servant?”

A faithful and wise servant is someone who is “giving them food in due season” (Matt. 24:45). In other words, Jesus’s faithful and wise servant is taking care of the people the Lord has placed in their sphere of influence. We “feed” them God’s Word. We encourage them. We want what He wants for them and we serve Him and not ourselves. We want what is best for them from God’s perspective. We will be blessed if we are found by our Lord upon His return doing what we are commanded to do.

Upon Jesus’s soon return, I want to be found doing what is on His heart - making disciples, serving others and seeking their good. The reward? Pleasing and honoring Him. Serving Him in the coming kingdom to a greater degree (being made a “ruler” — see also 2 Tim. 2:12).

In another parable, Jesus commends His faithful servants by saying, “Well [done], good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” (Matthew 25:23 NKJV). **Let’s seek to please Him by being found doing what He desires until He returns!**

“To say ‘Lord’ presupposes obedience...Someone or something will have control over your life; it all depends [on] to whom or [to] what you submit.”

— Navigator Jon Brock at Oklahoma City Conference 2013 and found at http://discipleshiplibrary.com/pdfs/OKC2013_11.pdf

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

What's the Hurry? by Richard Spann (excerpt from blog)

Howard Hendricks once commented that we live our lives in such a tight spiral that we honk at our own taillights! That is an apt description of our times. When our grandparents missed the stage, they knew that there would be another one next month. I have literally noticed people who are upset because they missed one section of a revolving door! This mindset carries over from travel to the totality of our lives. A father's day is too crowded to have breakfast with his children. When he comes home late from work, as is often the case, he hurries off to other activities. He leaves undone that which he should have done. Hurry has claimed that which is urgent rather than that which is important. Many families pass a “genetic” code of hurrying on to their children. Music lessons, baseball, volleyball, soccer, and dance lessons are all introduced to our children at an early age, commanding evenings and weekends. They learn, like their parents, to hurry from one thing to the next. There is little family time and limited meaningful interaction with the parents. Time with the Lord is often left out altogether. There is no daily spiritual interaction between parents and children. The parents send their children to church or enroll them in a Christian school, hoping that those measures will suffice. In fact, it results in a colossal failure.

The causes of a hurried lifestyle are multiple. We may simply be doing the wrong thing. Once we are involved in an activity that takes our time it may be hard to stop. There may be pressure from others to continue an activity or relationship. Even knowing that what we are doing is wrong, there may be enough satisfaction or enjoyment that we continue anyway. More commonly, we are involved in too many activities, hobbies or relationships and have no margin in our lives. We have replaced that which is essential in our lives for that which we should eliminate or delegate. The root cause for hurry, in most cases, is trying to take care of our own lives and manage them ourselves. We are not designed to do this. We do not have the capacity to control ourselves. Only the Lord can do this. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

The results of hurry in our lives are familiar to us all. Mistakes are made in judgment. We are often frustrated, anxious and commonly irritated with others. Those, who, with an agenda involving spiritual growth and activity, try to hurry things along in that realm may find themselves irritated with God. Their efforts only serve to delay the work of God in their own lives as well as in the lives of others. Abraham decided to hurry God's agenda along by having a son with Hagar...

It is the Lord's work to prepare us for eternity, not our own work. He works from eternity for eternity. He is never in a hurry. Our hurry focuses on events, situations, and circumstances. His work focuses on character. Only He knows how far we have to go, what is needed, how long it will take, and how to get there. We will never get rid of hurry by trying to get rid of hurry. We must get at the root cause. Hurry is but a symptom, a symptom of lack of trust in God, which comes from a lack of knowledge of God. To know Him is to trust Him. Jesus is the only person who was never in a hurry. Why was this? He was the only person who knew God perfectly. To know Him perfectly is to trust Him perfectly. We are given by virtue of the resurrection, the life of the One who never needed to hurry. This is because He had perfect trust in God to control each aspect of His life. It is through immersion of our life with His that we are willing to surrender to His love and turn over the control of our lives to Him. There is no longer any need for hurry for those who trust Him fully.

In Christ, Richard Spann

“Jesus made clear that the Kingdom of God is organic and not organizational. It grows like a seed and it works like leaven: secretly, invisibly, surprisingly, and irresistibly.”

— Os Guinness, Author