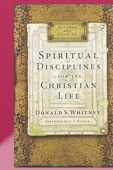




The Vise that leads to Life p. 4



Spiritual Disciplines p. 2

“We train disciplemakers...”

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Spiritual Habits for Developing Godliness

Check out the 3-part
overview on Spiritual
Disciplines in our podcast

[***Making Disciples
Naturally***](#)

Mark your calendars for our
Fall Conference
with Mike Treneer

***October 29, 2022 at
Eastminster Presbyterian
Church, Wichita***

What is the “Vise that
Leads to Life”?

***See the article
on page 4***

[***KansasNavs.org***](http://KansasNavs.org)

John Anderson brings dynamic messages to men’s retreat

John Anderson, Navigators Campus Director at Wichita State University, graciously provided outstanding messages at our Spring Men’s Retreat, April 1-2, 2022 at Hesston’s Crosswind Conference Center. Mr. Mike Treneer had initially been planning to speak, but due to illness was unable to make the trip at this time. Despite a very busy schedule of his own, John agreed to be our speaker at nearly the last moment. God richly blessed us through the words, enthusiasm and insight He gave to John for this time together.



John and Courtney Anderson

Seventy-one men attended the retreat and enjoyed wonderful fellowship, praise, singing and messages, along with in-depth discussions and just a time away from daily commitments to hear from the Lord through His Word.

John reminded us that we are compelled by whatever dominates our thinking or perspective. What’s big in our own eyes compels us. If we have a problem or fear that looks big, it’s probably because our vision of God is too small. If our vision of God is big, then our fears and problems look small. The number one obstacle to making disciples is not lack of training or culture; it is that we have too small of a vision of God. *(Continued on p. 3)*

(Scripture quoted by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NET Bible. “The Scriptures quoted are from the NET Bible® <http://netbible.com> copyright ©1996, 2019 used with permission from Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. All rights reserved”)

“And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we do for you, so that your hearts are strengthened in holiness to be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.” 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NET Bible)

Spiritual habits are more than ends in themselves

We know we should read our Bibles more, pray more, journal more, etc, but why? What is the purpose of adopting these spiritual habits or disciplines?

Spiritual disciplines have long been looked at as habits that the believer develops in order to become more godly. And, indeed, it is critical that we keep this in mind — the goal of spiritual disciplines (or spiritual habits) is godliness. Donald S. Whitney, in his great book “Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life” pub. 2014 by Navpress, reminds us that things like reading the Bible, journaling, fasting, Scripture memory, silence and solitude are NOT ends in themselves,



they are a means to an end. The goal of these spiritual habits is always godliness.

We explore a “30,000 foot” overview of spiritual disciplines or habits in a three-part introductory podcast series just released at Making Disciples Naturally. We’ll cover the habits in more detail in later podcasts.

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“Willing to be willing
to be willing”

— Vol. 2, pages 33-35

“Many times in our lives when presented with the opportunity to follow our Lord, we quickly affirm His Lordship and are willing to respond in a way that pleases Him. This may involve use of the spiritual gifts which He has bestowed upon us, or it may represent a venture into a new area for us. It may involve a local commitment, or it may take us overseas. The trust we have in the Lord enables us to respond and follow Him. The scriptures also attest to the willingness of many. The Apostle Matthew left his tax collecting business. Peter and Andrew left their fishing boats. Elisha slaughtered his oxen and followed Elijah.

Scripture also attests to the presence of those who were not willing initially, but were willing to be willing to be willing. Their initial reluctance through fear or lack of faith was overcome as they subsequently obeyed the Lord. One of these was Gideon, who was not willing to lead his brothers into battle, yet was willing to be convinced of the Lord’s presence and power as his faith was bolstered with answered prayer concerning the fleece. In Luke 5, Peter was initially reluctant to put out into the deep water and go fishing, stating that they had already fished all night and had caught nothing. He was willing to be willing, however, as he said to the Lord, ‘But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’ (Luke 5:5b)

Have you experienced an unwillingness to follow the Lord due to lack of faith? Are you hesitant to be willing in some areas due to doubt as to His ability or His desire to do that in your life which would glorify Him and which is for your eternal good? Are you unwilling to be willing in some area? When this occurs, we should be willing to be willing... If we place our unwilling hearts in His hands, He will change them into willing hearts.”

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

John Anderson speaks at Men's Retreat (continued from page 1)

Taking us back to Isaiah 6:1-4, he showed us that this passage reveals God in perspective, ourselves in perspective, grace in perspective and mission in perspective. The setting was that King Uzziah had just died, who had ruled for 52 years. When a king died, it was a really big deal in that setting. However, because King Uzziah died, Isaiah got to see the Real King, the Creator God of the universe. The description of God in this passage is dramatic — a long train of his robe, God being high and lifted up. We see His attendants with two wings to fly, two wings to cover their faces (as God is Holy and can not be looked at) with two wings to cover their feet (feet are unclean). “Holy, holy, holy” we hear in the throne-room of God. Holy means that a person is set apart. However, in regards to God the Father, His holiness is utterly unique and unable to be matched.

Isaiah 40:12 shows us a glimpse of our Holy and powerful God: “Who has measured out the waters in the hollow of his hand, or carefully measured the sky, or carefully weighted the soil of the earth or weighted the mountains in a balance or the hills on scales?” (NET Bible) In the very hollow of His hand, he can measure the waters. In view of our great God, how big are our problems?

Disciplemakers are compelled by God's greatness!

Next John reminded us that we are compelled to be ambassadors for Christ and are compelled by the love of Christ. Second Corinthians 5:14-15: “For the love of Christ controls [compels] us, since we have concluded this, that Christ died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised.” We are compelled by the love of Christ to be disciplemakers right where we are, no matter the cost. “Our perspective of God's love is too small. How do we tell if it is too small? If I am living for myself, my perspective of God's love is too small.”

As ambassadors for Christ, we are considered a person of the highest rank, a resident representative and as a speaker on behalf of Him who sent us. (2 Cor. 5:2). It is a gift to be His ambassador, a gift which is totally underserved. Second Corinthians 3:4-6 teaches: “Now we have such confidence in God through Christ. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as if it were coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who made us adequate to be servants of a new covenant not based on the letter but on the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” Our adequacy to be disciplemakers comes totally from God. Acts 17:26-27 reminds us that we are His ambassadors right where we are. We are exactly where He wants us to be. If we have placed our faith in Jesus for eternal life, as believers we are automatically His ambassadors, whether we know it or not. People are watching us and we should desire to be good ambassadors.

Three daily habits of an ambassador for Jesus are (1) **pray** for unbelievers to share Christ with, (2) **care** for others — initiate a friendship, serve them, eat together, invite them to our home, do things together, and (3) **share** your testimony and the gospel with them. “Pray, care and share” are three practical things we can do as ambassadors for Jesus. Paul Cahill reminds us that there is one thing we **cannot** do in heaven: we cannot share the gospel with a non-Christian. Let's do it now!

John's messages were packed with principles, inspiration, scripture and practical helps in making disciples. See our website under “Media” for audio and video recordings of these messages in the next few weeks. Feel free to watch and share with others!

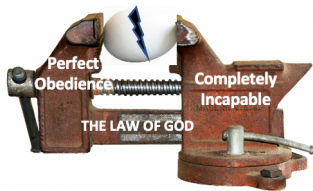
“When is the last time you were tempted to some sinful behavior while you were sharing the Gospel or praying with someone?” — LeRoy Eims, Navigator, reminding us to be about our Father's business and thus avoid temptation

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

A Vise that Leads to Life by Larry Beck

A vise is a tool that is used to hold something in place so that the item held can be worked on or possibly used to pressure an object to the point of fracture. The user of the vise can adjust the amount of pressure on the item held to ensure it stays in place until the work is accomplished, but too much pressure can result in damaging or ruining the object. In a similar manner, God uses the commandments of His moral law like a vise to place unbearable pressure on those He is bringing to salvation to force them, through realization and brokenness over their sin, to look outside of themselves for the answer to their sin problem.

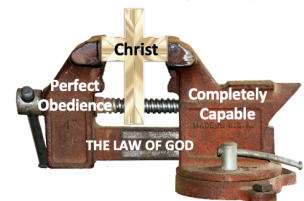
The illustration shown indicates man is like an egg in the vise of God's Law. Consider the right side of the vise representing the pressure of man's ability to obey the law and the left as his responsibility. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:48** “...you shall be perfect as my Father in heaven is perfect.” And in **Galatians 3:10** Paul writes, “**cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.**” God places all the responsibility on man to obey His Law - perfectly, but man does not have the ability to do so. In **Ecclesiastes 7:20** Solomon writes “**Indeed there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.**” A similar truth is written in **Proverbs 20:9**. “**Who can say, ‘I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin?’**”



As part of God's redemptive work in granting repentance to sinners, He causes them to feel the pressure of their inability to fulfill a responsibility of perfection that is impossible, crushing their self-righteous independence and revealing to them their helpless and broken condition. In understanding this reality, the apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 7:9** “...but when the commandment came, sin came to life, and I died.”

It is important to consider that the Law has an indispensable role in the salvation message since no one will discern their need for a Savior, unless they understand their desperate situation to have a need fulfilled that they cannot provide on their own. Consider Paul's message in **Galatians 3:24** “...the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith” and in **Romans 8:3** - “For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of flesh to be a sin offering.”

Like man, Jesus was required to obey the Law perfectly, but unlike man - He also had the ability to do it and did. Jesus said in **John 8:29** “...I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” **Matthew 5:17** - “Do not think I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”



Thus, the greatest truth for all men to whom God grants repentance and saving faith is that the righteousness of Christ has been imputed (applied to) to them as if they had lived the perfect life that Christ did, just as if they had never sinned – just as if they had always obeyed. Note **II Corinthians 5:21** - “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” It is easy for Christians to think the gospel is just for unbelievers, not realizing that their own motivation toward obedience and understanding of the love of God is bound to the same gospel truths. Christians need to be reminded constantly that their relationship with God is not based on their varying degree of obedience, but on the perfect righteousness of Christ imputed to them.

In closing, do you see yourself as justified before God and at peace with Him, or are you still living as if God is pleased or displeased with you based on your performance? Are you weighed down by guilt or a sense of unworthiness before God, or living by faith in the works of Christ as if they were your own?

“Each day of our lives, we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.”

— Chuck Swindoll, Pastor