

Life Group Homework

For the week of February 5, 2017

QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

MY STORY

- 2) Last week Dr. John Jackson spoke about being stuck in a rut in your spiritual life. Are there areas in your faith that feel like you are stuck in a rut?
- 3) What did you come up with as a mission statement for your life?
- 4) What was your takeaway from last week's study?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 6:1-13 (NLT)

"Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. ²When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

Teaching about Prayer and Fasting

⁵"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

⁷"When you pray, don't babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. ⁸Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.

¹⁰May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today the food we need,

¹²and forgive us our sins,

- See the prayer card inserted in Sunday's planner.

- 5) Last week we discussed humility and the attitude Jesus wants from us. This week we are unpacking Verses 10-11 from the passage above. Why is humility so crucial in connecting a clear vision for my life?

TAKING IT HOME

Below is a blog entry from John Maxwell about developing a teachable heart and attitude. There are questions interspersed throughout.

- *Teachable People Have an Attitude Conducive to Learning*
People with a teachable spirit approach each day as an opportunity for another learning experience. Their hearts are open. Their minds are alert for something new. Their attitudes are expectant. They know that success has less to do with possessing natural talent and more to do with choosing to learn.
 - *Teachable People Possess a Beginner Mind-set*
When people are actually beginners, they find it easy to have a beginner's mind-set. But maintaining that teachability becomes more difficult as you learn more and achieve some success. I try to maintain a beginner's mind-set by keeping the following three things in mind:
 - Everyone has something to teach me.
 - Every day I have something to learn.
 - Every time I learn something, I benefit.
- 6) What are some of the obstacles of developing a beginner's mindset?
 - 7) Of the two points above, what stands out to you the most and why?
- *Teachable People Take Long, Hard Looks in the Mirror*
Becoming and remaining teachable requires people to honestly and openly evaluate themselves on a continual basis. Any time you face a challenge, loss, or problem, one of the first things you need to ask yourself is, "Am I the cause?" If the answer is yes, then you need to be ready to make changes. Recognizing your own part in your failings, seeking solutions (no matter how painful), and working hard to put them into place leads to the ability to change, grow, and move forward in life.
- 8) The above point is something missing in our culture today—people who are willing to take responsibility and own their part. Why is it so difficult?
 - 9) What are some of the fears people have in taking a long hard look in the mirror?
 - 10) What does Jesus offer us when we face our sin head on?
- *Teachable People Encourage Others to Speak into Their Lives*

Too Comfortable?

When my comfort meets Gods challenge

Pastor Craig Sweeney

February 5, 2017

Matthew 6:10-11:

Introduction: Too comfortable? (When our comfort meets God's challenge.)

Text: *"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today the food we need..."*

"Pray like this: (My choice)

Our Father in heaven, (My choice)

may your name be kept holy. (My choice)

- Romans 6:23 - *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin."*

¹⁰May your kingdom come soon. (My choice)

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. (My choice)

- Matthew 13:1-17

¹¹ Give us today the food we need..." (My choice)

What is one thing you are walking away with today?

Teachable people surround themselves with people who know them well and who will lovingly, yet honestly, speak into their life. However, that can be a challenge—for many reasons. First, you must be willing to develop strong enough relationships with people that you can credibly ask them to speak into your life. Second, they must be courageous and honest enough to speak freely to you. And third, you must be willing to accept their feedback and criticism without defending yourself. Otherwise, you'll only receive it once!

- 11) Have you ever received feedback and defended yourself and it turned out worse?
- 12) Who do you have that speaks into your life? If you don't have someone, who can you talk with to remedy that?
 - *Teachable People Learn Something New Every Day*The secret to any person's success can be found in his or her daily agenda. People grow and improve, not by huge leaps and bounds, but by small, incremental changes. Teachable people try to leverage this truth by learning something new every day. A single day is enough to make us a little larger or a little smaller. Several single days strung together will make us a lot larger or a lot smaller. If we do that every day, day upon day, there is great power for change. Futuristic author and speaker John Naisbitt said, "No one subject or set of subjects will serve you for a foreseeable future, let alone the rest of your life." In other words, even if you do know something well, it won't do everything for you. Living to your potential requires you to keep learning and expanding yourself. For that, you must have a teachable spirit. If you don't, you will come to the end of your potential long before you come to the end of your life.¹
- 13) What did you learn today that you will take away from this study?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Last week in *Chair Time*, we looked at what the Bible says about itself in regard to it being foundational for a Christian world view. Also, along with the foundation comes the structural framework. This must come from some honest soul-searching—taking a look in the mirror and asking God to search us. This week read Psalm 139 and answer the following questions:

- 14) Pray Psalm 139 every day this week.
- 15) Why do we want God to search us?
- 16) What is He asking me to do?
- 17) What is He asking me to surrender?
- 18) What is He asking me to start doing?