

Study Guide “Capturing Your Dream”, *from 1-14-2018*

Warming Up

Pastor Maury Davis said that when God was forming you as an individual in your mother’s womb, He was making you exactly as you should be to achieve the plans that He has for your life – your calling. Spend a few minutes contemplating exactly what your God-given calling is. It may not be in a popular ministry. It may be to be a good man, woman, child, parent, grandparent, husband, wife, or single person. Now, think of anything in your mind that keeps you from living your dream. Share with the group if you feel comfortable doing so.

Gideon / Ehud - Pastor David described certain issues with two Old Testament people.

When the Angel of the Lord told Gideon that he was a “mighty man of valor”, he expressed doubt by replying that “if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us?” Discuss what you believe is the Biblical to the answer to why bad things happen to good people.

When God told Gideon to go and save Israel, he said, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.” Knowing that nothing is impossible for the Lord, why do you think so many Christians are paralyzed into doing nothing in His kingdom because they believe that they are not qualified? Should they just accept that they seem weak and are too small for the task, or cling to God’s promise that each person has gifts that are intended to bless others? If faith is unrealistic, in what reality are we living?

Ehud was considered a handicapped person because he was left-handed, yet this condition was the perfect way that God’s will was accomplished. Have you ever considered that a person who is born with a handicap may be exactly like that for some specific purpose which “God prepared beforehand”? (Ephesians 2:10) Does considering this make you think differently about people who are not “normal”?

The Lion and the Lamb

Pastor Davis said that the Lamb side of Jesus makes you a good person, but the Lion side makes you have a good life. Lions take what they want by their power and force, and they are not in sin when doing so. 1 Corinthians 4:20 reads, “For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.” Is being strongly determined always a sign of being a bully, or could it be the way God wants us to live at times? Can you judge when to have righteous indignation?

Pastor Davis said that people who only consider the “Lamb” side of Jesus often see themselves as victims, while people who tend to the “Lion” side see themselves as warriors. How do you see yourself? Doesn’t God want us to understand both the meek and mighty sides of Jesus?

Do you think that we need to understand the “Lion” part of Jesus to war against the ungodliness in ourselves and our world? Is aggression against Satan wrong? When we step in and try to fix a wrong, are we just not trusting God? What are your thoughts?

What about You?

Pastor Davis said that his feminine side is his wife. He is a man, and he makes no apology for it. Is there a push in today’s culture to blur the lines between masculinity and femininity? If so, what are some examples?

Mark Gungor said that men put information in boxes in their brains, while women have a network of wires, like spaghetti, in which many seemingly unrelated concepts are connected. Pastor Davis said that generally men want to fix something, while women want to talk about it. Do you believe that God made men and women with different intrinsic qualities? Discuss.

In Joshua 18:3, Joshua asked the children of Israel, “How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?” We all need to ask ourselves this exact question. How long will we keep living with insecurity, unforgiveness, always being offended, being ruled by emotional reactions, not being able to stand being corrected, etc? Do any of these hindrances to living a life of peace and joy (Romans 14:17) still control you? Do you believe that living under them is God’s will for you? The Lamb won’t fix them. God will not take you out of them. It’s up to you. How long will you resist believing that God wants the best for you, but you have to act in it? Pastor Davis said that we put preachers on the cross so that we don’t have to deal with our own flesh. Have you ever blamed someone else for something that only you can fix?

Have you ever used excuses to stay exactly where you are, even though you know that it is a place of defeat?

In John 8:36, Jesus says, “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” AA programs have their members perpetually proclaim, “I am an alcoholic.” Which is true?

Conclusion

Psalm 139:14 proclaims, “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works.” If you are God’s marvelous work, and wonderfully made, can you be content living a life of not knowing your purpose?

The Lamb saved you. The Lion makes you a warrior who understands 2 Corinthians 10:4. “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.”

Weapons are made for fighting. Are you willing to fight to be who God has called you to be? Think about it. Pray about it. Have faith for it.