

Series: Get Help, Give Help #3

Message Title: Spiritual Fathers

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Luke 2:49

Why did you have to look for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?

Matthew 26:39

My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will [not what I desire], but as You will *and* desire.

Hebrews 12:2

Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader *and* the Source of our faith and is also its Finisher. He, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising *and* ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Discussion Part 1:

Why would Jesus ask His Heavenly Father to “let this cup pass away from Me”? If Jesus is the “Leader” of our faith, practically give examples of how you face today's pain motivated by His joy set before you.

S.Marshall thoughts:

The world promotes short-term gain, for long-term pain. “*Go in debt today, satisfy your longing, and don't pay a cent until a year from now!*” Sounds like a pretty familiar marketing pitch, doesn't it? It is a morally and ethically a dangerous place when you begin to forfeit vision of the future to live by the demands of today's desire. This is where sin is born. God warned Cain, “Sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you.”

Have someone read:

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Discussion Part 2:

You must develop core competencies which means you choose discipline over pleasure. It's not that pleasure is bad. No! Psalm 16:11 says at God's "right hand are pleasures forevermore." Character helps you enjoy or manage the gifts and pleasures. Core competencies are development of character. Gifts are what you do, but character is who you are. How do you practice delayed gratification? Talk about how this is counter-culture.

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

It's one thing to say we walk by faith and not by sight, but quite another to pragmatically apply such a notion. Sight says "I see therefore I believe." Faith says, "I believe therefore I see." You need character to walk by faith and that's why a core competency we all most develop is patience to help our faith endure. See James 1.

Life Application:

Within the trusted circle of your Life Group, find out who actively has a mentor in their life. Everybody needs a mentor. Identify qualified mentors within your group. Remember we all need specialists for the different areas of our lives. If someone in the LG does not have a mentor then let's help and pursue Biblical discipleship now.

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

"Jesus for the joy set before You, You endured the cross for us. As the Leader of our faith we ask that You will show us how to develop our core competencies, our life of discipline so that we can manage and enjoy the gifts You grace us with. Prosperity ruins a fool so we ask that You lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from all evil. Help us not to succumb to the seducing voice of temporary pleasure for a life of bondage and pain. Encourage us in Your Word so that we sow today for the righteous harvest of tomorrow. Grow us up in the maturity of knowing what mentors to pursue and listen to. Water the roots in our life as we abide in You and bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Continue to pray specifically for one another's needs ...)