

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday March 10, 2019. "Encounters: Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem".

A. Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk.

Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

B. Sunday.

Sunday began a new series we're calling "**Encounters**". They're stories of people who had their own "**Encounter**" with Jesus, how that "**Encounter**" changed the direction of their life, and what we can specifically learn from those "**Encounters**" that can help us change the direction of our lives towards one that matters, has meaning and purpose. Andy Stanley gathered information about the elements that were the most transformative influences in a person's life. In their study, they discovered these 5 things. They aren't ranked by importance, but show what has a profound impact on who we are.

1. Practical Teaching.

2. Private Disciplines.

3. Personal Ministry.

4. Pivotal Circumstances.

5. Providential relationships.

And we believe the last two are the ones that have the most profound, and lasting impact on who we are as a person, and the path we chose to take.

So...

Name an event, circumstance in your past that dramatically changed the direction of your life?

Name a person who helped guide you towards the person you are today. Why were they so influential?

C. Scripture.

The scripture was a pivotal moment in the life of Jesus, and a passage that kind of exists off the radar screen. We know Jesus lived this intensely focused life, but we often don't think about what he had to do initially to live the life he did. So read **Luke 9:43-51** and we'll drill down thru the passage.

What jumped out to you, spoke to you about this account?

What did you notice about the disciples?

What did you see Jesus doing that would affect the rest of his ministry?

There were five truths, (of course there's a list...right), that were drawn out of this story, this **"Encounter"** Jesus had with his disciples, that talk about how to have this same resoluteness, steely determination, setting his face towards Jerusalem that Jesus had towards things that actually matter.

How to live our life to do the important things.

1. Recognize, and accept, your place in this world.

Jesus got this...he knew his life was not his own. He was talking about being betrayed and surrendering his life, and the disciples were arguing who is the greatest.

We are but a vapor. Life is short. This is a hard but undeniable truth. If we can't embrace this truth, then we won't be able to be courageous.

2. Don't allow yourself to get caught up in worldly silliness.

Difference between important and unimportant. Needs and wants. And we often mix the two together. We saw this quote Sunday morning.

"Don't make unimportant things important". -Dai Vernon.

Should be something in your life that helps you continually realign your priorities.

3. "Gather up your courage and steel yourself". (Message version)

A really important word here is gather. Gather implies everything important, needed, necessary, essential, you already possess, but is not together in a way that you need it to be. And you gather to do work or to move. Sometimes you have to say to yourself; *"this is scary and will most likely be really hard, and so I'm going to have to do the extra to do it. But it's SO worth it!"*

4. Then just go.

At some point you have to stop studying, talking about it, and just do it. Can't keep hoping, wishing, dreaming, talking, etc. Can't be unsure because you've never been there before.

Can't hold back because you have all of these unanswered questions. At some point you can't know anything more that would help you do what you needed to do and you just move into this truth.

Which one(s) do you personally struggle with?

What makes that one so difficult for you?

D. Challenge.

As we continually say; God is for us, and wants us to live a life of meaning and purpose. He's not just demanding us to obey his rules, but wants to give us the fullest life possible. From this **"Encounter"** we see that kind of life begins with an initial decision to want to live a life for the important things...things that matter.

So....some final questions.

What distracts you from wanting and choosing to live for bigger things?

Do you have a way to help you decide what those bigger, more important things are?

Again again...God is fully for you, and has an unbelievably meaningful life for you. You just have to chose it. Gather your stuff and GO!!