



September 8, 2019

DIGGING DEEPER

John 4:31-45

The purpose of this document is to help us
take the word beyond our Sunday gathering
and to **think through the practical**
implications of the Scriptures and then to
be intentional about living the word out.

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Hungry Helper

John 4:31-34; 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Questions Worth Asking

Jesus never got distracted from his purpose and work. His priority, calling sinners to repentance, was his passion, and it fueled the faith that he exemplified when he walked the earth. So important was the mission to the Messiah that he would feel full when he had an opportunity to do that which he was called to. His appetite was not for a gourmet meal; he was hungry to see souls saved from sin. This kind of focus fuels a passion that is fully concentrated and never diluted. A disciple that is distracted from their purpose will be a disciple that has a diluted passion. And the enemy is working hard to make sure that we don't stay on mission. We must fight to stay focused so that we can have a hunger that fuels a faith that is fully concentrated. If we stay focused and faithful, we too will be willing to find ourselves fulfilled by things that please God. May your hunger for God fuel the faith that we live out here on earth.

1. What has the tendency to distract you from being fully focused on the things of God?

Digging Deeper:

- How have you found a lack of focus to cause you to miss out on a goal that you had set for yourself?
- Why do you think it is so difficult for people to have a singular focus in our Western culture?
- How have you seen a little compromise end up leading to a full turning away from what was once a clearly stated conviction?

2. How has a singular focus helped you to fight through feelings of fear so you might achieve that which you purposed to accomplish?

Digging Deeper:

- What has contributed to an increase in your appetite for the things of God?
- How does your trust in God empower you to do things that you never thought you could or would do before salvation?
- In what ways does someone's unwavering faith inspire you to want to have a passion that isn't diluted?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you stay hungry for the things of God...

1. Sacrifice some time in an activity you enjoy and spend that time praying for others in the family and those who have not yet joined the family.
2. Refrain from taking part (watching, listening, participating, etc.) in entertainment that has explicit elements that are not in line with the word of God.
3. Carve out 15 minutes in the beginning and end of your day to spend time reading the Bible.
4. Commit to reading through the Bible every year.

Reap & Reward

John 4:35-38; Hebrews 11:39-40

Questions Worth Asking

There is no time for twiddling thumbs when the harvest is ripe and ready. During harvest season, the reaper of the harvest adjust their priorities and has a singular focus...bring the harvest in. Jesus was teaching the disciples that there was no time to delay. The sowing has been done and they needed to bring in the crops. Others, like Noah, Moses, Abraham, Sarah, etc. have tilled the ground and planted the seeds; we must partner with them to see souls experiencing the blessings of salvation. We are partners in the work of seeing the Kingdom of Love impact the lives of people on this earth. There is a great deal at stake and the Lord has entrusted us with a pivotal role in the partnership of seeing souls won for Christ. We can't be distracted; we must not be delayed. The harvest is ready; now is the time. There must be a sense of urgency as we realize we have been saved so that we can be sent to see other souls saved. **Let's bring in the harvest!**

1. What do you think causes those who know the eternal impacts of sin and salvation to be slow in sharing the love of the Lord with the least and the lost?

Digging Deeper:

- How has society's message of political correctness created a tension in sharing the truth of God's word (i.e. heaven vs hell; holy vs heathen, etc.)?
- In what ways does a longer life expectancy effect the sense of urgency in bringing in the harvest?
- How has someone's negative response to sharing the love of the Lord (in word and/or deed) impacted your response to the command to share the love of the Lord?

2. How has your love for someone who isn't saved given you a sense of urgency to want to see them in a right relationship with Christ?

Digging Deeper:

- What impact did hearing someone's salvation story play in your coming to and/or growing in Christ?
- How does knowing the significance of your role in someone's salvation story compel you to share your salvation story with others?
- What has helped you to see the power of sharing your testimony with others who are searching for Christ?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you run to bring in the ripe and ready harvest...

1. **Read and meditate on [Galatians 5:16-26](#).**

2. **Pray for the lost friends that are in your life.**

We begin to care more about those who we are praying for. As a result, we are more sensitive to opportunities to share the love of the Lord with those who we are praying for.

3. **Release bitterness, anger, animosity, hate, unforgiveness.**

Forgive those who have wronged you. You can't love like the Lord with hate and hurt festering in your heart.

Share the Story

John 4:39-42; John 4:28-29; 1 Peter 3:14-17

Questions Worth Asking

Without a theological degree, lacking years of experience in the faith, and not being commissioned to start a revival, the Samaritan woman was able to lead many in her city to come and see the Savior. She was willing to use the one thing she had to make a difference in the lives of so many...her story. Unashamed by her past because she had met the Messiah, the woman at the well was willing to share her story so others might know that a loving Lord could meet them at the point of their need. The living water wasn't hers to hoard. It was something she was to share so others who were thirsting for the truth of the Lord's love might be filled. As those who have tasted the living water, we are sent by the Lord to help others come and see the Savior's love. We don't need to spend three years taking religious studies courses. We just need to be willing to give the reason for the hope we have in Christ. And that means being willing to share our salvation story. Allow others to see the change that Christ has made in you. Tell others what the Savior has done for you. When others see and hear your story, they too will want to come see the man at the well. **Share your story!**

1. What about the messiness of your past makes you feel insecure about telling others your whole salvation story?

Digging Deeper:

- Why do we feel like we need to be theologians before we can share the hope that we have in Christ?
- How has someone's hard questions about Christianity made you a little less passionate about telling others about Christ?
- In what ways have you seen a bad attitude have an adverse impact on the effectiveness of evangelism?

3. How has someone's salvation story helped you come and see that the Lord is good and worthy of your life?

Digging Deeper:

- Why is it so important for other people to hear your salvation story?
- What about your encounter with Christ gives you confidence to tell others about the messy life God saved you from?
- How has your salvation story encouraged you to keep on running for Jesus in hard times?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you be well positioned to run and share your story...

1. Live out love (look at section 2 Steps Worth Taking)

A cantankerous Christian will not be have a significant impact in helping others to see the Savior. If you are going to help others come to the Savior, you must first let them see his love lived out through you. Treat your family, friends and colleagues with compassion, courtesy and respect.

2. Share your story

- a. Write out your full (BC-AD-PD) salvation story.

BC – Before Christ;

AD – After you Died (Galatians 2:20);

PD – Present Day

- b. Highlight/underline the key points in the story.

- c. Be ready to share your story whenever someone asks why you are so happy, positive, kind, etc.