



September 1, 2019

DIGGING DEEPER

John 2:13-25

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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A Scripted Life

John 2:13-17; John 6:35-40; Psalms 139:19-22

Questions Worth Asking

Jesus made his position clear while he walked the earth. He lived to please an audience of one...the Father. He loved the things that God the Father loves and hated the things that God the Father hates. So Jesus lived his life scripted. He did exactly what the Scriptures said the Messiah would do. He was willing to do what his Father called him to no matter if it brought fanfare or hate mail. We are commanded to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. This kind of love should compel us to live a scripted life. We should live our lives based on what the Scriptures say. Yet, we seem more inclined to be passive instead of passionate in order to not be offensive to others. We must not become distracted by the things of this world or desensitized to sin. There must be a pure love for the things of God that causes us to live with a passion that can't be contained. We must stand up and stand out for the things of God no matter the cost. May we be vigilant to live out the word of God whether that gets us fanfare or hate mail.

1. What do you believe is causing the people of God to be more passive about sinful actions they see in their life or the lives of other believers?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why is it detrimental to the body when believers don't confront others in the faith about choices that don't line up with the word?
- What types of activities or things are accepted in our culture but not healthy for spiritual formation?
- What habits have formed in your life that have proven not to be beneficial in fortifying your faith?

2. Why do you get protective when someone or something you love is being threatened?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How have you come to care so much about the things that you are willing to fight for?
- In what ways has investment of time correlated to the level of passion you have for that which you pursue?
- How have you benefited from someone caring so much about you that they were willing to press into conflict/tension to help you?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you live life according to the SCRIPT-ures...

1. **Read and meditate on [Psalm 1](#) and [Joshua 1](#).**
2. Spend a minimum of 15 minutes every day reading your Bible.
3. Spend 15 minutes in the morning, afternoon and evening meditating on the word of God and the goodness of the Lord.

A Determined Destination

John 2:18-22; John 17:1-5; Galatians 5:16-26 ; Galatians 2:20; Revelations 2:1-7; Psalm 34

Questions Worth Asking

Jesus didn't just clear out his Father's temple, he was also willing to offer up his temple for the cleansing of man's soul. While death wasn't something desirable, especially not death on a cross, Jesus was willing to do the undesirable because he knew what his destiny was. With a fixed focus on a future that would allow him to regain the glory he once had with the Father before the world existed, Jesus had a determination that couldn't be deterred by destruction. As a matter of fact, the destination was determined to be worth giving up his body for destruction. Our desired destination should fuel a determination to deal with all manner of difficulties so that we might see our destiny come to pass. If we don't have a singular focus on our heavenly home, we will become distracted by the things of this world and desensitized to the sin running rampant in this world. And that will cause our determination to become diluted, which will put us in a position to not deal with the trials of this life in a way that demonstrates a trust and dependence on God. May we stay focused on the Lord and lean into pursuing a life that pleases him and him alone. Knowing that our destination is determined, heaven is our home, live with a determination that defies the threat or act of destruction to a plush and pleasant life on earth.

1. What causes you to become distracted from having a fixed focus on the things of God?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How has distraction made it difficult to live with determination during difficult times?
- How has societal norms impacted the way you view the sinful choices that you and/or other people make?
- What impacts have you seen desensitization towards sinful behaviors and mindsets have on our willingness to live "radical" lives like Jesus?

2. How has having a fixed focus on a desired destination fueled you to live with determination even in the face of disappointments, difficulties, distractions, etc.?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why are people willing to sacrifice things they considered meaningful for a desired destiny?
- What about seeing someone living life with purpose inspires so many people to want to do the same?
- How does the promise of heaven influence the decisions you make in this life?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you live with a determination that defies destruction...

1. Cut out things that are distracting you from focusing on your final destination.
 - a. What are you watching that is causing you to be desensitized to sin?
 - b. What are you listening to that is causing you to be discontent with what the Lord has provided?
 - c. What are you scrolling through that is causing you to desire the things of this life more than the things the Lord promises in the life to come?
2. Make a list of the things that the Holy Spirit is prompting you to cut out.
3. Share that with a trusted friend for accountability.
4. Commit to letting that go for the month of September. And then see what the Lord says for October.

Confidence in Christ

John 2:23-25; John 5:30-37a

Questions Worth Asking

Jesus came from humble beginnings as the son of a carpenter from a small town in Galilee. His hometown and family were actually a point of contention for some when considering if he could be the Christ. Jesus' earthly beginnings didn't determine the way that he saw himself though. He knew who he was and what he was called to do. Once Jesus started performing signs, many people started to believe in his name. Jesus went from backwoods nobody to the person that all wanted to know for one reason or another. Yet, the new found popularity didn't impact Jesus adversely. Jesus didn't change as a result of the fame that was being associated with his name. And the reason why is because he never looked to people to validate his worth or value. If he did, he never would have launched out into his earthly ministry. Jesus was confident in the ONE who sent him to save the people from sin. If we are going to fulfill the purpose for which the Lord created us, we can't wait for the crowd to validate us. We must find our confidence in Christ and not the crowd. And should the crowd come along, we must still hold fast the ONE who sent us. May we entrust ourselves to Christ and Christ alone.

1. How have the words of people hindered you from doing and/or pursuing what God has called you to?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why do the words of man seem to resonate louder than what the word of God says about you?
- What have you said about yourself that doesn't line up with the truth of God's words?
- How has the pain of the past shaped the way you are living out you present and what you are believing for your future?

3. In what ways has coming to Christ freed you to live with a confidence that defies the sins of your past?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How does the truth of God's word help you combat the lies of that have lingered in your mind?
- What does it do for your confidence to see that the Lord has used others in significant ways who have made some significant mistakes in their past?
- How has knowing and seeing God's faithfulness caused you to entrust him with your life?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you build your confidence in Christ...

1. Tear up the lies.
 - a. Fold a paper in half;
 - b. Write the lies that you have heard and been repeating to yourself on one half;
 - c. Find and write a truth from God's word that refutes that lie;
 - d. Whenever you think of the lie repeat the truth three times.
2. Post the truth.
 - a. Write out the truths you identified on post-it notes;
 - b. Put them up in spaces that you will see;
 - c. Read them daily to remind yourself of who God says you are.
3. **Read and meditate on [Psalm 139](#).**