

Introduction: Practical Theology and Ladies

- I. Start of a new series entitled: CommUNITY!
  - A. By the time we finish this series...we will be halfway through 2019..
  - B. *If you have come to NR since January of this year...*
    1. *Here's where we started...*
    2. 2019 all began with 1 key thought for this church: **UNITY!!!!**
  - C. **What is possible for you in 2019...  
WITH GOD?**
    - (1) we are going to be **ONE...**
      - (a) we are going to be **UNIFIED...!**
      - (b) **UNITY...!**
  - D. **Fruit of the Spirit...**
    - a) **1 Word:**
    - b) **1 Verse:**
    - c) **1 Year:**
- I. Having a goal...clear vision...is vital..
  - A. But knowing how to do it...is just as important...
  - B. **We want to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ...**
    1. **And to be a light in this community...**
  - C. In order to that...we must be knit together by ONE belief and unified in our efforts...
    1. **Taking care of one another and loving one another...**
  - D. **Timothy**
  - E. **Do we know..?**
  - F. **-What can words do?**
  - G. **-What God's Word does?**
    - (1) Integrating both FAITH & WORK...
  - H. What **Paul is trying to do here is connect our faith with our work!!!**

**How should Christ-followers view working in their CommUNITY?**

  - Work with vigor
  - Understand the importance of work
  - Receive the blessing of work
  - I. Our **work is designed to help others have peace...help others flourish..!**

- J. **Traits of a Healthy Church**
- K. **-Exercise eternal love**
- L. **-Growth**
- M. **-Genuine joy**
- N. **-Growing assurance (felt love...joy...assurance/expectation**

**-expectation:**

**EXPECT to see yourself growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ...**

**EXPECT to see us come closer together...**

**EXPECT us to have UNITY...**

**II. Look at some people's lives & how they were their lives were summed up in a few words...**

A. We have a mission statement..

**B. "Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ"**

1. Sounds **like a life statement...purpose statement!**

**C. Do you have one for your life...?**

1. Family: **life is about reps...**

**a) Finish strong**

2. It's like an epitaph...represents your **DASH!**

**a) What did you do with your life?**

**(1) What are you known for?**

**(a) Remembered for?**

b) That cute dash from **the year you were born until the year you pass away...!**

**D. Back in the day...this was a very popular thing to do..!**

1. **Write out a sentence or two..to sum up someone's life..**

**a) Some are funny...some sad...some meaningful..**

**E. Slide:**

**I knew this would happen!**

**F. Slide:**

**Here lies**

**Johnny Yeast**

**Pardon me**

**For not rising.**

**G. Slide:**

**Now I know something you don't!**

**H. Slide:**

Raised 4 beautiful daughters with only one bathroom and still there was love!

I. Slide: (silver city, nevada)

Here lays Butch,

We planted him raw.

He was quick on the trigger,

But slow on the draw.

J. Some of these are funny...!

1. But it does make you stop and think a little bit...

a) What will be said of you?

2. **Funeral: a month ago**..and if not for the funeral directors

a) It would've gone for hours!!!

(1) Loved this man..& so many sweet stories!

K. Your epitaph is meant to inspire...and encourage!!!

L. You sometimes think...well if my life had started here...

1. *Had these parents...*

2. *lived here instead of there*

3. *Had these opportunities...*

4. *that school...*

a) *Those friends...that degree...*

M. Yes..on some level..sure maybe that helps...but it doesn't define...

1. **Until we understand...**

(a) **Individually & corporately to follow Christ!!**

N. You **can start with all the cards in your favor...**

1. It doesn't mean anything...

a) Think of famous people...who appeared to have it all...

(1) Only to lose it...or abuse it...or destroy it!

O. A great example of this is in the Old Testament...

P. King Saul 1st KING of all the Tribes of Israel

1. Came *from a very wealthy family*

2. **1 Samuel 9:1 (tall, dark and handsome)**

a) *"there was not a man among the sons of Israel more handsome than he, being taller than any of the people from his shoulder and upward"*

b) **Israel: a collection of tribes** with **no centralized LEADER**  
(1) **Samuel the prophet: religious leader**

(2) This all started around 1050 BC

c) *Started out great...but ended horribly*

3. Saul's rule as king was characterized by **failure and rebellion.**
4. He **directly disobeyed God**
5. broke **God's law by offering a sacrifice that only priests were to offer**
6. Saul spent much time and energy trying to **murder David**
  - a) **he even tried to murder his son Jonathan once** (1 Samuel 20:33).
  - b) Incredibly, **King Saul ordered the slaughter of eighty-five innocent priests and their families** (1 Samuel 22:18-19).
7. Saul started out so well,
  - a) but his **disobedience derailed** what could have been a stellar kingship and the beginning of a dynasty.
  - b) By his sin, **King Saul lost everything:**
  - c) **his relationship with his son,**
    - (1) his leadership role in Israel,
    - (2) the love of his people,
    - (3) and finally his life.
    - (4) **Saul ended his life by committing suicide** (1 Samuel 31:4).

**Q. King Saul...basically wrote his own epitaph...**

**R. Slide:**

**1 Samuel 26:21**

**21 Then Saul confessed, "I have sinned. Come back home, my son, and I will no longer try to harm you, for you valued my life today. I have been a fool and very, very wrong."**

**S. What we learn here...**

1. Is that **regardless of where your journey begins...**
  - a) If we **are not moving...growing in our relationship with Christ...**
  - b) money...fame...wealth...CONVINCE YOU ABOUT LIFE...but do we live that way!**
  - (1) Things can derail quickly...**
2. But **what interesting...is the next man that replaced Saul...**
  - a) His **background was completely different**
  - b) **We can learn quite a bit from his journey as well...!**

**III. Slide:**

Acts 13:22 & 36: **Luke**

22 But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.'

36 For after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died and was buried with his ancestors,

A. Do you know what that was?...

1. That was **David's epitaph...!!!**
  - a) **God says: David is a man after My own Heart!**
2. **Discovering the story of David's life...**
  - a) **Will help us as a church...as individuals..**
    - (1) **Begin to see and understand that life is real..**
      - (a) **The humanity of it is real**
3. **Here's a man who's life was dotted with:**
  - a) **conflict...jealousy...love/lust...struggle...**
  - b) **Disrespect...family dysfunction...tragedy**
    - (1) **But ultimately...he became a man after the Heart of God!**

B. I believe we are **supposed to understand and study David...**

1. There's a **reason that 14% of the OT covers his life & story!...**
  - a) **We need to pay attention!!!**
    - (1) **Discover what is possible for us as individuals...**
  - b) **We all have the potential to be children after the heart of God**
    - (1) If we **will see this...and implement it individually...**
      - (a) **Imagine the impact on the UNITY of our church**

**C. Imagine the impact on our community if we are a church after the Heart of God..!!**

IV. Let's look into this...

A. Starting with **David's heritage**...we can see immediately...

1. It doesn't **matter where you come from!!!**
2. **Slide:**

**Matthew 1:5-6**

**5 Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). (Rahab was a harlot)**

**Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).**

**Makes Ruth his great grandmother: she was a Moabite...Bible refers to both the Moabites as Lot's sons, born of incest with his daughters**

**Obed was the father of Jesse. (still a generation removed from Moabite: incest)**

**6 Jesse was the father of King David. (a common man: farmer and sheep breeder)**

3. Most of us have some dysfunctional relatives/relationships in our families..

**a) Family heritage does not dictate your spiritual future!..**

(1) **Can't pick your parents:**

(2) **be choosy with your spouse and friends!**

**B. Remember: Saul was tall, dark and handsome...great in stature..**

**1. David was not...he was the youngest of 8 sons**

2. He had an older brother **named Eliab**...that fit the build and make-up for a king...

**3. Slide:**

**1 Samuel 16:6-7**

**6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!"**

**7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."**

4. Who in here thinks they are attractive?..

a) **Be honest..!**

**C. Out of luck...only unattractive people can grow spiritually and be used by God..!**

**1. How do you think i ended up here this morning...**

a) Just kidding...

2. **There are no physical limitations when God is involved...**

a) **Stature...strength**

**b) health...God knows the heart..**

(1) **Amazing stories of folks with serious health limitations...**

**3. Physical is insignificant when talking about God**

D. David was disrespected and looked down upon by his own family

**1. Slide:**

**1 Samuel 17:28**

28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!"

2. Just sounds like an older sibling...so sarcastic...right *in front of God and everybody...*

E. David had challenges even early in life...

- a) I'm common
- b) I'm small...no stature
- c) No respect
- d) Young
- e) And wasn't very educated either...

F. Shepherd boy...uneducated...

1. Spent his youth...watching over sheep

G. David was the most UNLIKELY CANDIDATE to be used by God..!

1. Don't be a prisoner to the lies...that you aren't good enough..
  - a) Smart enough...tall enough
  - b) Strong enough...

H. What got God's attention..?

1. Not any of that stuff...that we think about...!!!
2. What's important to God...is our heart...our character!

I. When we say... 'a growing relationship with Jesus Christ'...

1. That's what that is...it is you and me...
  - a) Developing a Christ-like character!!!!

V. *3 things that will help us...develop a Christ-like character...*

A. Slide:

Developing a Christ-like character

-Always SEEKING God

B. We talk about worship...(music)

1. But that's not all that worship means

C. Worship is our LIFESTYLE!

D. What we see in David's life...throughout his life..!

1. His desire to worship God...

E. Slide:

Developing a Christ-like character

**-Always SEEKING God**

**1. Praising**

**2. Thanking**

**3. Praying**

F. I can imagine **David as a shepherd...sitting on a hillside...**

1. Quiet moments with God...

a) **Always singing...and praising God with his words and his even his thoughts...**

**(1)When is the last time my thoughts praised God...and brought Him honor and glory!!!**

2. Psalm 146 describes what praise is all about!!!

**G. Slide:**

**Psalm 146:1-2**

**1 Praise the Lord!**

**Let all that I am praise the Lord.**

**2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

**I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.**

H. Developing these Christ-like character...after God's Own Heart

1. **Begins with praise..**

a) **When we praise:**

**(1) We focus on God...not ourselves...**

**(2) God becomes greater than our problems..**

**(3) So much bigger than that!**

I. **Psalm 100:4**

J. **Enter his gates with thanksgiving;**

**go into his courts with praise.**

**Give thanks to him and praise his name.**

K. **It is an attitude of worship...a lifestyle!!!**

L. **Worship is praising...thanking...but it also includes prayer!**

1. We know from **the Psalms...5**

2. When **David woke up in the morning...he begins seeking the Lord!**

M. **Anytime David faced a trial ...he would pray to God**

N. **Whenever he was scared...unsure...needed to make a decision...**

**1. HE PRAYED!.**



O. Best friend ordeal on Friday: we prayed before it..during it  
...after it..

1. When you do that...you bathe it..!

- a) You walk away feeling confident that it's in God's Hands and regardless of the outcome...i will have the strength to move forward...

b) That's why we pray...!!

P. A life filled with praise...thankfulness...and prayer...

Q. That's the 1st step in developing a Christ-like character!!

VI. Slide:

Developing a Christ-like character

-Always SEEKING God

-Living with a humble heart

A. living...existing...breathing...functioning...operating...IN ALL THAT WE DO!

B. Do it with a humble heart...

1. Especially as it relates to sin in our life...approach it with humility...not excuses...not justification...

C. This is *what stops many of us from 'growing in our relationship with Jesus'..*

1. We've messed up too bad...there is sin in our past and it defines us now and defines our future...

D. If that's you...listen up as I read this...

1. This is David's heart of humility after committing adultery  
2. He is so real..vulnerable...humble!!...

E. Slide:

Psalm 51:1-10

1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
because of your unfailing love.

Because of your great compassion,  
blot out the stain of my sins.

2 Wash me clean from my guilt.  
Purify me from my sin.

3 For I recognize my rebellion;  
it haunts me day and night.

4 Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;  
I have done what is evil in your sight.

You will be proved right in what you say,  
and your judgment against me is just.

5 For I was born a sinner—

yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

6 But you desire honesty from the heart,  
teaching me wisdom even there.

7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Oh, give me back my joy again;  
you have broken me—  
now let me rejoice.

9 Don't keep looking at my sins.  
Remove the stain of my guilt.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Renew a loyal spirit within me.

F. That's real..!

G. We are forgiven...! You can move forward...!

H. ***This is grace***...that's been **given to me...that's been given to you**

1. **When your heart is humbled by God's forgiveness...**

a) *Then...it's extended to others...*

2. Approach all of life...with a heart of humility...

I. **David had a couple of opportunities to destroy the man out to destroy him...**

1. Saul...on 2 occasions..David exercised a humble heart

a) Cut off part of Saul's robe...he could've killed him...

(1) But chose not to..

J. In other situations: **David had a heart of humility by always looking to FORGIVE..!**

1. Not just forgive...but he taught that others...

a) **SHOULD ALWAYS BE FORGIVING!...1**

**sam. 25:32**

K. Even when he was made **king of israel..**

1. His heart of humility remained constant

2. **Pattern of the day:** was to kill the family of all the previous regime of the monarchy...He **chose not to do so...promised not to cut off the seed of Saul**

L. In **order for you and i to continue to develop the character of Christ..**

1. We **must be willing to exist with hearts that are humble..!**

a) **That means...in ALL THINGS..!**

b) Look **how Peter describes humility in the NT**

**Slide:**

**1 Peter 5:5-7**

5 And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

6 So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. 7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

- c) Having a lifestyle of worship
- d) Operating with a humble heart...and

**Slide:**

**Developing a Christ-like character**

**-Always SEEKING God**

**-Living with a humble heart**

**-Boldness**

M. The **development of faith...not just sometimes...but living a life with the boldness to know God can will provide the way..!**

1. Think about the **early portion of David's life..**
  - a) He knew God would provide a way to **defeat Goliath..**
2. He was so **bold in his belief of what God could do..**
  - a) He trash talked Goliath...
  - b) “You come at me with a sword, spear & a javelin...
    - (1) I come in the name of the Lord!
    - (2) I'm gonna conquer you...kill you & cut off your head!

N. That's pretty BOLD!...but he believed it!!!

1. That was an **AGGRESSIVE means of boldness and faith...**
2. Shortly after:
  - a) He kept the same boldness & faith...
    - (1) But he had to use that to understand that he needed to wait...
  - b) Now his boldness/faith needed to **exercise patience!**
    - (1) You gotta be bold to do that at times too!
3. **He had just killed Goliath...his time was now!!!**
  - a) But he trusted God and waited for the right moment to become king..
    - (1) He had to wait...patiently...
    - (2) **He became a harp player for Saul**
      - (a) He served as commander in Saul's army..
        - (i) Waiting!

- b) He waited 14 years to become King of Judah  
(1) Another 7 to become King of Israel...

**O. We...must learn to develop boldness/faith...**

1. *In present moments...*
2. *And moments to come...!*
3. *Trusting God in EVERYTHING!!...*

**VII. You and I want to be people after God's own Heart!...**

- A. If we want to **have UNITY...and want to be a light of Christ in Community...**
  1. **Then we need to develop a Christ-like character**
    - a) **Seeking God** in everything...making worship of Him our lifestyle
    - b) Living with a **humble heart**
    - c) Having the **boldness/faith** in Him in all things...
  2. Regardless **of what we have done wrong in our past...!!!**

**B. I've messed up too bad...**

**C. I've hurt too many people...**

**D. I've been so selfish...**

**E. We all have...David sinned...fell short...**

**1. But here's the secret...**

**a) HE CONTINUED TO TRUST THE LORD!...**

**VIII. Slide:**

**Remember...**

**-God looks beyond what we see(a shepherd boy...small...youngest...not qualified...God saw a King..a worshipper...a humble man...a man with boldness...)**

**People judge by outward appearances...but the Lord looks at the heart!**

**-God works through the imperfect(humility is found in the imperfect)...God can use humility..!**

**-God offers grace (do you know what that means...? ONLY YOU...can stop you from reaching your potential...spiritually!!!!)**

**-God knows when the time is right (our job is to have faith/boldness that He is in control...)**

**If I continue to pursue the heart of God...i will find my purpose in this life..!**

**Slide:**

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

**5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.**

**6 Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take.**

1. For you and me...NRC...we've talked about  
UNITY...community

**2. All of that starts with you and I...**

a) Developing a Christ-like character..

(1) That should be my epitaph...your epitaph

**b) Always striving to develop a Christ-like character**

**c) He was a man after God's own Heart...**

**d) She was a woman after God's own Heart!**

3. We **are a church after God's own Heart...**

a) Let's make that our goal...life statement...!

4. Are you ready?

5. Are you up for it?

**6. Let's get started...as a church...and ultimately**

**B. Let's all meet at the Heart of God!**

**C. I pray that we see each other there!!!!**

IX.