



PHILLIPIANS: CHOOSE WISELY, PACK LIGHTLY

May 10, 2020 (ADAM – *light, italic*)

Josh & Crystal Ricciardi (ADAM – MEDIUM)

Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Corinthians 1:12

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

“For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.”

Good morning Doxa, happy Mother's Day! My name is Grace and I'm a deacon on staff. I am so excited that we can gather together virtually today. If there is a mom in the room with you, pause and tell her thank you. Moms of Doxa, we love you, we appreciate you, and celebrate you today. All of us, maybe you just became a full-time homeschooling parent, or you are exhausted from working from home. We all need the Lord to bring us rest and remind us to fix our eyes on him.

In 2 Corinthians 4 it says, For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people and may increase in thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart, Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us in eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

As we approach his throne this morning, would we be encouraged that even in the midst of affliction, nothing can take us from his hand and nothing can stop his hand. And because of that, we worship him. Let's sing together.

Good morning Doxa families! I'm Lindsey Bayne, Kids Ministry Support, and I wanted to welcome you this morning, and thank you for joining us wherever you are. I also want to wish all of our moms out there a very happy Mother's Day. I hope that you are feeling very loved and very celebrated today by all of your family's. Want to give you a few things that are going on around Doxa this week.

First, we hope that you have been enjoying the devotions that our team has been preparing for you. If you have any questions, um, that you would like us to talk about in the devotions, please text them to the number below. You can find the link for the devotions on our homepage or you can visit our Instagram TV channel. Next starting May 17th, we will be offering a second live hosted gathering at 6:00 PM on Sundays. It will include our full liturgy, live chat, live prayer. So if you can't make our mornings we'll see you at 6:00 PM starting May 17th. You can find the link the same as the morning gathering: "live.doxa-church.com". Last, our prayer room is open every Sunday evening. And in order to accommodate for our new service time, we will be pushing the time back to 7:30 to 8:30. If you would like to join us in praying for our community and church, please text "doxa praise" to 24587, to an invite for our prayer Zoom room. Those are your updates for this week. If you need anything, you can reach out to us at "info@doxa-church.com". We hope you have a great week and you enjoy the rest of the service.

Hi, my name is Emily and today we'll be reading Scripture together. If you have one near you, grab your Bible. We'll be going through Matthew 6, verses 19-21. Please stand for the reading of God's word.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We'll also read 2 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 12, For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom, but by the grace of God and supremely so toward you. This is the word of the Lord. You may be seated.

JOSH: Good morning Doxa Church and happy Mother's day. If you don't know us, I'm Josh Ricciardi, and this is my wife Crystal. And we're just very happy that we can join together with all of you.

Now, Crystal and I have been leading and serving here at Doxa from pretty much the beginning, about five years. And uh, we're constantly amazed at what God is doing in and through each of you. Um, it's amazing. We, our heart and our prayer is really that each of us, that we were equipped and that we were encouraged in the very specific gifts that God has for us. So that we can really engage in the ministry that God has for us. But also you've ministered to us. You've been able to help us as you've gathered to, to work in our Sunday gatherings, our missional communities, even Doxa Kids and DOXA Students. Because we have three boys, Brendan, Evan, and Max, who are 17, 14 and 9. and you've truly been a blessing to us. Thank you.

Now, this morning we want to share a bit from God's word, the Scriptures. Because God's word transforms us. God's word is powerful. We also want to share a bit of our story as well. Because when we proclaim who God is and what he's done in our personal story, it's really a way that we can give glory to Christ. That's the best thing that we can do. And it also allows others to hear and to be transformed themselves. But before we do that, we want to take this time as we're celebrating Mother's Day. We want to lift up, we want to honor, and we want to thank all the mothers, basically all the women here at Doxa, the mothers everywhere. And why do we thank you? Because you're truly an example. You're truly the leaders in the way you love and minister. We're so thankful. And whether you're upfront in the light or maybe more importantly, just as important, you're working behind the scenes, thank you so much for your service.

And I love Scripture, because we've seen the Bible, where throughout the Bible, God really lifts up and he honors and he calls out the women that have served him well. Those that are examples to us. And I specifically like Mark chapter 15. It's during the Passion Week where we see that Jesus goes up into Jerusalem. And when he goes up into Jerusalem, he's going into the darkness. He's going into his death, into the work that he came to do. And Mark calls out that it was the women who were there with him. While everyone else abandoned Christ, while everyone else quit. Peter was even disowning Jesus. It was the women that were there ministering to him and loving him. And that's a true example. I think that's a perfect picture of the love of a mother. Love of that women give because uh, many of you have been abandoned, many of you have had challenges and you still press on. So thank you so much.

I'm just so glad that you guys can hear from my wife. Crystal is amazing in the ministry, the love she's given me, our family, and I know that many of you have been blessed by, by her ministry to you as well.

CYRSTAL: Yeah. We're very excited to be here today and, and share what the Lord has been working on in our life. In the, even since Christmas, and even into this time of quarantine. It just makes me think of the question like, do you ever have that deep sense of the Lord calling you to prepare? Or to, um, have rest? Or to, um, change the way things are going in your life? Um, I feel like the Lord has been preparing the Doxa of family, and even our family, in this time for this actual time of rest in quarantine.

Our preparing really started, um, back at Christmas when we were blessed to be able to spend two weeks in Italy with our kids. Uh, this trip was life changing, because it really followed a time of complete busy-ness. Um, before we left, we basically, um, finished up our finals at school. I passed on my patients, um, to my coworkers, and Josh tied up all the loose ends. And then we packed up our suitcase, this very suitcase. We each had one suitcase and then the next day we set off for our adventure. We only knew where we were going to stay and what, which cities we were going to visit. But we didn't know anything else. We were so busy before we left that we just didn't have time to repair. But the Lord totally blessed it. It was amazing to see our sons' faces as we experienced new culture, and history, and the marketplaces. Um, it's one that we won't forget.

And through that time the Lord has reminded me, and even now of three things. The first is the need to pack lightly, to choose wisely and to not hold on too tightly. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 1:12, For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom, but by the grace of God, and supremely so towards you.

Every year I try to choose a word, something that I feel like the Lord is working on in my life where I need to be challenged with. And this year it's "simplicity". Getting back to the basics, the simplicity in life. And realizing that without all the appointments, the sports events, the work responsibilities, life does continue to go on. Simplicity brings us back to the Father. Following Christ can become more about worldly wisdom, moving from one activity or commitment to the next, or even just stuffing our head with knowledge. But he calls us to be like children that have a child like faith.

When Josh and I were at Biola University, we spent a lot of time in Honduras building gravity fed water systems in different villages. And each year, or actually ended up going a couple of times a year, we would really try to pack as lightly as we could. We would try to get it down to one backpack and really pride ourselves in the least amount that we could bring. Um, by the time we left Honduras, we ended up leaving half of our stuff there so that we'd have room for some souvenirs from the Hondurans, I guess, um, our son really picked up on this. We must have passed it on to him because, um, for Italy he basically brought an empty suitcase. He wanted to leave room for those little Roman soldier, um, key chains and Italian comic books and pasta. He had to bring home some pasta. So I really feel like this suitcase represents our life.

Do we work hard to take as little as possible, or be involved as little as possible, so that we don't have to take on the burdens of others? Or do we spend our time actually stuffing our lives with all kinds of responsibilities, and work and um, just different commitments that we don't take time to be involved in other people's lives? Or seek out relationship? Or even soak up the moments with our children?

Being in Italy at Christmas really reminded me of the importance of simplicity. We have been going full speed with work, driving long distances, um, having different commitments every night of the week. We were filling our suitcase so tightly that it was busting at the seams and we could not zip it all in. So what kind of suitcase are you packing? Are we so busy working? Taking our kids to sporting events, giving our

kids the best education, that we forget to leave room for relationship or even eye contact? Um, undistracted time or silence with the Father, or spouse and children? The Lord has designed us to be in relationship. Not just connections virtually. Although I am thankful for Zoom and being able to continue on with our MC every week and be able to meet with people over Zoom. Um, and also just being able to have this time of digging into God's word each week with all of you. But there's nothing that replaces the actual presence of another person. It's through this relationship, what is when we experience the Father more deeply. I pray that as life begins to slowly reopen, we don't default to virtual connections, but that we take time to be intentional in people's lives.

Yep. Just as we packed lightly, we also forgot things. And it's okay to forget things when we pack lightly. That gives us the opportunity to rely on other people for help. I know Josh and I really struggle with that to try to be so self-sufficient that we don't have to rely on others, but then we realize, and we're reminded, that the more that we allow other people into our lives and our schedule, the more that we can benefit from their gifts, and they also can benefit from serving us. So it's okay to pack lightly, forget a few things and leave room for those souvenirs or gifts from others.

JOSH: Yeah. So with the importance of packing lightly, I want to talk about really, um, the need to choose wisely. Now, when we went to Italy, uh, we, because we were packing lightly, it was great because it allowed us to really maximize the experience. Because we packed lightly, we, uh, could quickly go in and really maximize the, you know, the seeing the people, the culture and definitely the food. Um, we stayed in three main areas. We, we stayed in the Sorrento in the south, next to the Mediterranean, and then Rome and then Florence. And so for each of those cities, we can quickly move throughout the museums and the different marketplaces. We could quickly go through and whether it's jumping on a bus, and then moving to a train, and then a ferry. It was great. We were able to move quickly. And one of the things that was really great for us, what we realized is, spending three or four days in each of those areas.

Uh, we were able to take a day and just pause. We were able to take a day and just sleep in a little bit. We had breakfast. We cooked lunch based off of what we, what we bought at the market the day before. And I think the most important thing is we're able to have conversations, Hey, what did you think about this, this, uh, this different place that we visited? Or, or you know, this part of the culture or the architecture? But then also discuss just in life in general have those conversations. And so with some of

the burdens lifted, we were able to have that time and we were able to have that rest. And we, we, we said coming back, you know, how, how amazing it would be if we could carry some of that with us? And here we are in quarantine.

And so, um, you know, we've experienced some of that burden lifted. Now, choosing wisely involves really identifying and acknowledging the burdens that we put on ourselves, and to distinguish those from the really the burdens that are really the circumstances of life. Now, during this time, I know that many of us, many of you have been impacted. Jobs have been impacted. Some of you own businesses, or your practice, and you're at a spot where you're just like, okay, what am I going to do? The worries, okay? But also for many of us, this is a time where we can see that some of the burdens have been lifted and we've been freed in a certain sense. We've gone from the rush of activity and craziness to now we see more of some calm and some rest. We've gone from just striving to get as much done as possible, to now we can actually just sit in conversation, alright?

We've gone from really being disconnected to, we realized how disconnected we were, but then also have a presence with one another. Now, worldly wisdom says, do as much as you can, as fast as you can and really at the expense of yourself and those around you. Um, it's about maximizing productivity. You don't want to be the person that's lagging behind. Um, whether it's sports, academics, parenting, uh, engagements with friends and family. Those can be overwhelming.

So we have this opportunity to choose wisely, knowing that we have these different burdens. Some we can, some of them we can control. Some of them definitely are the circumstances of life. Um, and we do have to know, we have to acknowledge that we have the ability to choose wisely. We're not victims just stuck where we're at. Because we know that we, and every day we assess what we have. We make decisions, we pursue the things that are important to us. We pursue the things that are valuable to us. And I think we can all say that when we're successful and we accomplish and we're, we're in the spot where we know we need to be, it's because those things are important. Because, but we also know that those may not be the wisest things.

So really what are the burdens that you've placed on yourself? What are the burdens that, you know what, have stacked up that are not wise? And maybe God is asking and calling each of us during this time, where some of those have been removed. That maybe we need to leave. Because we all know that whatever normal looks like, we're going to be tempted so fast to just jump right back into that. Now I've realized

more and more, as the worldly wisdom comes in, the burdens are there, I've realized more and more, the importance in terms of choosing wisely, is to really hold the gospel out in front of me, in front of me so I can meditate on it so that I can hold it close. To really crowd out the rest of the rest of that other stuff that can come in. And for me, it's taking some Scriptures that I can distill down into just really the simplicity and the powerful, the power of the gospel.

And for me, it's 1 Corinthians 15 verses 1-5. I need the gospel. As a Christian, you know, we can overcomplicate things. As a Christian and as a disciple, things can seem way too out of control. How do I follow Jesus? How do I keep the gospel out in front of me that I can focus on meditate on? But 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 is a great reminder for me. And it's what I've been meditating on for so many years.

Um, the apostle Paul writes the first 14 chapters of the book to the Corinthians, where he's basically laying out the gospel over and over again. Who is, who's Jesus? What has he done? And then we get to chapter 15 and what does he say? Let me remind you of the gospel. So thankfully we see in Scripture that we need to be reminded of the gospel. And so we see in those verses, first and foremost, he said of utmost importance, it's Jesus. The historical Jesus who he is, what he has done for us. We see it's his life, his death for our sins and his resurrection. And that that was foretold by prophecy, that it was all he was also witnessed by so many people. So in front of me is the gospel, the person and work of Jesus. And then Paul continues and says that the gospel is preached.

So in my listening to the preach gospel, or am I listening to other things, the worldly wisdom? Paul also says that the gospel is not only preached, but we can receive it. Am I receiving? Are we holding close the gospel? Or are we holding on to other things? We also see that the gospel is what we stand on. It's our foundation. And so when life seems crazy or I wonder, you know, God, where are you? To remind myself that I'm standing on that solid foundation. We also see the gospel is not only what saved us, but the gospel continues to save us. It's a continual growth that we can go through. And so that's what I hold tight to. With all of the burdens that I put on myself, with other burdens that just come through a life circumstances, holding the gospel in front of us. The simplicity and the power of the gospel is choosing wisely.

CRYSTAL: Just recently our family took a trip to Colorado to visit our youth pastor and his family. And we packed the same bags for our two weeks. Um, in and put our bags into the car and headed to the airport. And when we got to the airport, we unloaded

our bags. And Max, our youngest, looked at me and said, My suitcase! He completely forgot his suitcase at home. It was still sitting in his room. And we just assumed he brought it into the car. And um, but no suitcase. So we didn't have time to go home and get the suitcase. So we left without it. When we got to Colorado, I invested the best \$4 of my life into some Pikachu pajamas from Walmart, and some underwear and a T-shirt. And he thought he had forgotten everything, but he actually had plenty.

So what are the things in our life that we think are necessary but they actually aren't? What are the things that we're holding on too tightly to? The Lord says in Matthew 24:35, Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Lord constantly reminds me, through my children, to not hold on too tightly. As moms, we continue and constantly nurture and care for our kids. To help them become more independent so that they can eventually leave the house. Over and over I need to be that my sons, who are now men almost, um, do not belong to me. They belong to him. Losing my father at the age of 16 was a wake up call for me in realizing that things and people do pass away. For a long time. I dealt with fear and anxiety about losing those I love the most. The tighter I held on and attempted to control the situation, the more anxiety I felt.

The Lord has slowly been freeing me of these fears. And gently guiding me to hand over the people and the relationships and things that are most important to me. There is such freedom in this. Freedom in trusting in the Father and holding tightly to him instead of people or things. Even in this time of uncertainty with fears of losing a loved one from the virus, or no longer being able to connect with others in our regular routines, or not even knowing when life is going to return to normal. The Father has allowed me to feel a sense of freedom. Knowing he is in control. He is the author and perfecter of our faith. All of the things around us can easily be taken away in a matter of minutes. We've seen that in the last several weeks. But his word is always with us. He is, he is always with us. In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus says, Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Are we more focused on the things of this world that will pass away? Or are we focused on God's kingdom? Are our relationships focused on pointing people to Jesus or are they focused on pointing people to ourselves? Do we hold on to the

hope of buying that next possession to make that busy work week worth it? I pray that we have all gained a new perspective during this God given time of rest. That we can feel a sense of boldness to share our story and God's story.

It's when we hold on too tightly to our reputation, our jobs, our relationships, that we feel paralyzed and anxious for fear of rejection. I want to encourage you that the Lord is walking with you. And he's carrying you through all of this. So loosen your grip and trust him to speak through you. Reach out to those around you who are feeling a sense of loss, fear and uncertainty. Share in their sufferings and be reminded of what God has done and what he's doing now and what he's going to do through all of this.

Doxa family, we miss you. We miss gathering with you. We miss seeing your faces. We are so looking forward to the time that we can all be together again. I think that's going to be a glorious moment. Until then, where is God calling you to simplify? Where do you need to use wisdom? What people are things are you holding on too tightly? I pray that you will continue to spend this time processing, refocusing, and resting. As life slowly returns to normal, what will you take out of this time? Will you return to stuffing your suitcase with those unnecessary items? Will your focus beyond rebuilding what you had before? Or will it be focused on pointing people to the Creator? I pray that when we return to our offices and our schedules and our schools, that we will not forget. All throughout history we have seen God's people forget. And we forget all the time. I pray that we don't forget. I pray that we would take advantage of opportunities to share Jesus with those that are hurting or confused by the despair. Be encouraged that the Lord is walking with you. He's with you through this. He's carrying all of those burdens that we try to hold on so tightly to. And he wants to give you rest. We pray as you pack your suitcase, you will think simplicity. That you will choose wisely, and hold onto the Father tightly instead of all the distractions and the things of this world. Let's pray.

JOSH: Father God, we thank you for this time that we can gather. And Lord, we know that now and for forever, Lord, that you are King, and that you are strong, and that you're mighty Lord. And so we thank you and praise you Lord. We know that you are all-loving and merciful. And so Lord, we just cry out that we worship you, but we need you, God. Help us, Lord God as we see in your Scriptures here to, to really, um, be aware and to really think and pray about this, these moments that we live in. I pray, Lord God, for those that are, that are suffering and hurting, I pray for those that are working on the frontline and, and working with those that are sick. Would you just give them strength. Lord, I just pray for anyone who's, who's lonely or just I'm just

scared. Whatever it may be. Lord, would you just be with each and every person? Father God, I just thank you so much for, for all of the moms. I thank you so much Lord for their true example of leadership and of just devotion, that have been blessing to everyone, Lord. And so Lord we, we love you and we just thank you for this time. Amen.

So Doxa family, we're going to move into a time of response right now, like we do, uh, each and every Sunday. And if you notice in the tab there's going to be some, some areas of response. And first, first and foremost is to give. And thank you so much for your giving here at Doxa. We heard from Pastor Tim last week of just how amazing it is that the you all are giving, to really carry on and continue with the ministry. And so the information is there. And then secondly, there's some questions. Are there some discussion points. We just encourage you to, to review those and to talk through those, uh, as a family or whoever you're with. And then third, we really encourage you if you can, to take communion. Jesus says to, to remember me. And so we can really remember the historical person of Jesus, the work that he did on the cross to save us. And so with his body, the bread and with his blood, the wine you can take and remember. And it's great because he says. Take and remember me, because you'll see me at the end of the age. And so we're going to see him again face to face. And so when we take communion, we do it with hope. We do it with, um, just an amazing hope that we're going to see him again.

So thanks again Doxa family. We love you. And as Crystal shared, we're really looking forward to seeing you again soon.