

THRIVE: An Invitation to Thrive
Speaker: Jake Schwein
Date: 6/13/21

Hosts: Jen McCourt and Matt Taylor

Worship: Paige Maxwell and Amanda Edwards

QUESTIONS:

An appeal to your heart because our affections drive us to decisions. It is our affection for Jesus that answers the invitation to thrive.

1. What aspect of God's journey is easy for you? What aspect is harder? The adventure, the peace, the joy, the stepping in to hard places?

2. 'Our spirit must be ignited by divine fire' Richard Foster Celebration of Discipline
When is a time when your spirit has been ignited by the divine fire of the Holy Spirit?

3. Are you in a discipleship relationship with someone? Have you invited someone to lead you in the way of Jesus? Are you leading anyone in the way of Jesus? Does the depth of your relationship with Jesus create a value for discipleship in your life? What stops you from being involved in discipleship?

4. What are you hearing God invite you into right now? Who is God inviting you to love?

God, I want Your love and I want Your love to compel me. I want to receive all that You have for me in love. I want to not just experience Your love for myself, but to truly know and allow Your love to compel me. Holy Spirit, use me to love others! May Your love compel me to be in relationship with others. Fill me with love for others! Amen.

SERMON NOTES:

I want to appeal to your heart!

We are invited into a journey.

We are invited into a new way; A Jesus Way.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 10:9-10

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

We are invited to encounter God through worship.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

“Worship is our response to the overtures of love from the heart of the Father. Its central reality is found ‘in Spirit and in Truth.’ It is kindled within us only when then the Spirit of God touches our human Spirit. Forms and rituals do not produce worship, nor does the formal disuse of forms and rituals. We can use all the right techniques and methods, we can have the best possible liturgy but we have not worshiped the Lord until Spirit touches Spirit. Singing, praying, praising, all may lead to worship, but worship is more than any of them. Our Spirit must be ignited by divine fire.” - Richard J. Foster, Celebration of Discipline

We are invited to come and drink

John 7:37-39a

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit

Isaiah 55:1

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

We are invited to return to our first love.

Chosen to Thrive

You have been chosen to experience the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

1 Corinthians 5:14

For Christ’s love compels us

Romans 5:5

God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You have been chosen to believe for big things.

Hebrews 11:1,6

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

You have been chosen to do good works.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

You have been chosen to love people.

1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

You have been chosen to Thrive!