

FOX VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

KINGDOM ANNOUNCING DEVOTIONALS

DAY 1 – MONDAY, MAY 21

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
 - Paul clearly believed in announcing the kingdom of God, evangelism, as something that was to be a lifestyle. For Paul and the early Christians, evangelism was not something that they did but something that they were. Everywhere they went, everything that they did was focused on proclaiming that Jesus was the true king of the world and was calling people to live in submission to his perfect rule and reign.
2. What is the difference between saying that evangelism is something you are (a lifestyle) rather than something that you do?
3. Why do you think that Paul was willing to go to such lengths—that had to be well thought through—in order to help people become Christians.
4. Are there any things that keep you from having the same attitude that Paul demonstrates here?
5. What is Paul’s motivation in verse 23? What do you think that this means for you?

Scripture	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness
<i>1 Corinthians 9:19-23</i>	<i>What is the command or principle to be followed?</i>	<i>Where is God calling me to repentance or calling me higher based on this passage?</i>	<i>What do I need to do to align my life with this passage of Scripture</i>	<i>What specific steps do I need to take to go about correcting my thoughts or actions?</i>

DAY 2 – TUESDAY, MAY 22

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-27
 - Paul was willing to give up and sacrifice his own comfort and rights in order to help save as many as he possibly could. Paul immediately moves into an example of athletes who are willing to train, work hard, and sacrifice in order to reach their prize. The “prize” here is related to helping to save others. That was certainly part of Paul’s prize that he was willing to sacrifice for. Paul had a passion for saving that lost that came from God’s own passion for those of his children that were separated from him.

2. Why does Paul say that he doesn't want to waste his time by throwing punches into the air?
3. What do you think are some of the things that Paul was willing to sacrifice in order to save people?
4. What are the things that you have sacrificed in order to save those around you?
5. Are there any things that you feel that you have held back from sacrificing or giving up in order to save some?

Scripture	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness
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DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
 - Being evangelizers isn't just a matter of inviting as many people out to church as you can. It is a life of service. As we saw yesterday, evangelizing is a matter of who we are and what we become rather than what we do. We are ambassadors, or representatives of Christ, showing the world, in everything we say and do, what it looks like to be reconciled to God and live under his loving reign.
2. What should compel us to share our faith with others? Why is it vital to keep that motivation at the forefront of our hearts and minds?
3. What do you think that regarding others "from a worldly point of view" has to do with the ministry of reconciliation (evangelism)?
4. Spend some time thinking about the gravity of verse 20.

Scripture	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 4 – THURSDAY, MAY 24

1. Read Matthew 4:18-20
 - It should be of no surprise that the calling of Jesus' first disciples involved the mission of fishing for people. In becoming the people of God, those who live under the rule and reign of God, we are given a mission to bring more people into the kingdom of God. Many Christians today would view this element of our obedience to Christ as an optional aspect of our life in Christ but notice that it was at the heart of what it meant to follow Jesus. Jesus came to seek and save the lost and if we are to walk as he did then that must be at the heart of who we are as well.
2. Why do you think that becoming fishers of people was the very first thing that Jesus called his disciples to do in following him?
3. What was the response of Andrew and Simon to Jesus' call?
4. Why do you think they left their nets? What was the significance of them leaving their nets?

Matthew 4:18-20	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 5 – FRIDAY, MAY 25

1. Read Luke 19:9-10
2. At the end of one of the most famous and pivotal stories of Jesus' life, we find Jesus declaring that the primary purpose of him coming to earth in the flesh was to seek and save the lost. Yesterday we looked at the importance of having that as the focus of our mission and self-identity as well, but today we want to focus on the dual nature of Jesus' mission. He wants to seek and save the lost. For most Christians, at least one of those two is a real challenge. Some love the saving activities of studying the Bible with people, helping them come to faith, baptizing them, etc., but struggle with the seeking activities like going out and meeting people, starting conversations and friendships, asking them to study the Bible, etc. While other Christians like the seeking and are not so fond of the saving part. A rare few excel in both. As disciples, we may not list both as our strength but we must be willing to make efforts in both seeking and saving the lost.
3. Do you find seeking or saving type activities most difficult?
4. What about your answer to number 3 do you find difficult about that aspect of evangelism? Be as specific and comprehensive as possible.
5. Why do you think that aspect is so hard for you?

Matthew 4:18-20	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 6 – SATURDAY, MAY 26

1. Read John 4:25-30; 39-42
2. Jesus introduced this woman to the idea of the kingdom of God and her response, once she understood him fully, was that of joy. It is no small thing that her immediate response to receiving the kingdom of God was one of unabashed joy that manifested itself in her running and sharing the good news with everyone she knew. That’s the way it is with incredibly good news; we typically want to share it with everyone else. If that’s not the response then we have to wonder if the news is not that good, we do not fully appreciate, or if we have some reason to not share it. When it comes to the kingdom of God and the life of Christ we have the best news possible and there is no reason to not share it with others, so if we do not have the same sort of response that the Samaritan woman did, then perhaps the issue is that we do not fully appreciate God’s kingdom. It’s certainly something to think about.
3. Has your consistent response to God’s kingdom been like the woman’s here? Are you constantly filled with joy that overflows as you share the good news with everyone you can?
4. What the immediate result of the woman sharing her own testimony about Jesus?
5. What was the result for those that took the woman’s testimony and went to Jesus themselves?

Matthew 4:25-30; 39-42	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 7 – SUNDAY, MAY 27

1. Read Acts 8:1-4
2. In Matthew 28:18, Jesus told his disciples that “as you go” (the more accurate rendering of the text that is usually translated simply “go”), they should make disciples of the nations. This passage is a perfect example of that. The disciples were scattered all over due to persecution but rather than that being a defeat, it turned into a great victory as the kingdom was spread with them due to their commitment to preaching the word wherever they went. We may not be spread out due to persecution but we are still called to share the good news “as you go” to work, to the store, around your neighborhood, and throughout the twists and turns of our lives.

3. What was it, do you think, that caused the response of the disciples to great persecution to be that of preaching the gospel as they fled rather than worrying about the normal things that most people would or being seized with fear?
4. What are some of the places that you have shared your faith in the past “as you go”?
5. Are there any areas of your life that you have yet to make a concerted and consistent effort to announce the kingdom of God to those around you?

Acts 8:1-4	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 8 – MONDAY, MAY 28

1. Read Philemon 1:4-6
2. In verse 6, Paul prays that Philemon and those in his house church would excel in “sharing their faith” (as the NIV ’84 puts it). He says that in doing so they will understand every good thing that we have in Christ. Was Paul saying that we need to evangelize in order to experience the best of the life of Christ? That’s not directly what he was saying but that is still true to an extent. A better way to translate this is that it was a call to excel in “partnering in the faith” or the need to share the life of Christ with our family in Christ because faith (or the life in Christ, in other words) is about living together as God’s family. A big part of that, then, is the desire to continually call more into God’s family out of our appreciation for God and our understanding that he wants his family to grow. Evangelism is in fact a good portion of what it means to share and partner in our faith together. Only as we give to others and participate fully in the life of Christ do we truly understand everything that we have in Christ.
3. Paul constantly remembered others in his prayers. What fellow Christians can you remember in your prayers today? Who do you know that hasn’t yet joined into the life of Christ that you can pray for?
4. In what ways do you “partner in the faith” with other believers? How does that help you understand the good things that we share in Christ?

Philemon 1:4-6	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 9 – TUESDAY, MAY 29

1. Read Proverbs 12:18; 25:17; 27:14

2. Sharing our faith with those not in Christ is a balancing act. We want to share the good news of the kingdom of God with them but we don't want to become overbearing or obnoxious. These Proverbs help us strike a balance between being persistent and bold but also understanding that those we are reaching out to do not likely understand their need for God's family with the same urgency that we have for them. We have to find the right combination of wise persistence without becoming annoying. Prayer, advice, and listening to the Spirit will help us go a long ways towards that goal.

3. What can you learn from each of these Proverbs?

Pick One Proverbs	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 10 – WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20

2. It's hard to talk about evangelism for very long without looking at Matthew 28:18-20, the passage that has come to be known as "the Great Commission." One of the great truths about announcing the kingdom of God to the lost is that it is easy for us to lose motivation to continue doing so over the course of our life in Christ. Because of that, the Scriptures offer many different reasons and motivations for evangelism, some of which we've already considered but one of the most basic ones that should not be overlooked is the simple act of obedience. In calling his people to make disciples of all nations, Jesus gave very simple commands: "go" and "make". Jesus, the one with all authority, has commanded his people to go and save as many as possible. If Jesus really is our king and the Lord of our lives and has all authority within our lives, then shouldn't his simple commands to go and make disciples be enough motivation?

3. Why is it important to understanding the motivation that we are commanded to remember that Jesus has all authority?

4. Why do you think Jesus sent out his disciples to make other disciples rather than just telling them to live a certain way and welcome interested people who came and asked about their way of life?

Matthew 28:18-20	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 11 – THURSDAY, MAY 31

1. Read Matthew 6:10
2. Evangelism isn't just about inviting people to church or talking to strangers, although it certainly includes those types of activities. Evangelism also includes what is called "lifestyle evangelism." Jesus called upon his disciples to pray for and be people who constantly worked towards doing God's will on earth as it is done in heaven. That means that we are to show people what it looks like to live by the values of the age to come. It means that we live every moment of our lives as though Jesus really is the king ruling in his kingdom right now. It means that our lives are to become outposts of the kingdom of God, inviting the world around us to join us.
3. What does it mean for you to do God's will rather than your own right now? In what areas is that a particular struggle for you right now?
4. If your neighbors, friends, and family were to observe your life, would they see more of your will or God's will coming out in your life?

Matthew 6:10	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 12 – FRIDAY, JUNE 1

1. Read Luke 13:18-20
2. Whether we're speaking of the impact that the kingdom of God has on the whole world, or in the life of a Christian community, or just in the life of an individual, we know from these verses that it won't start out with a bang. The kingdom of starts out like a small seed or a small batch of yeast. It doesn't look like much at the start but it will have a big impact down the road. Remember that as you share your faith and life with others. It might take a long time to see any results from sharing the kingdom of God but they will come.
3. Do you ever feel discouraged about the task of sharing your faith and announcing the kingdom of God through word and deed wherever you go? What do you think causes you to feel that way? What can you do biblically as a response to those feelings?
4. Why do you think that Jesus used these two items to teach about what the kingdom of God is like?

Luke 13:18-20	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 13 – SATURDAY, JUNE 2

1. Read Hebrews 10:32-39
2. There are many things that can cause us to shrink back from our bold walk in the life of Christ. For the first audience of Hebrews it was persecution. For us it can be the simple struggle of sharing our faith. What encouragement give to those of us who are determined to remain faithful in Christ?
3. What does verse 39 make you feel as you read it and meditate on it today?

Hebrews 10:32-39	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness

DAY 14 – SUNDAY, JUNE 3

1. Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25
2. Paul urged the Corinthians in this passage to be a people of love and not do things that were self-focused like misusing the miraculous ability to speak in other languages (a gift that was available to some before the time when God’s people had full access to the word of God in the New Testament). He urges them to prophesy which meant to speak the word of God boldly and directly. When we do that other people will know that they are in God’s presence. Not everyone will agree or like it, but those who are truly open to seeking God will recognize his word when they hear God’s people speaking it. Make sure today that you truly come with a heart ready to love and give and direct others to the word of God in Spirit and in truth so that they might have the same reaction that we see described here.
3. Are you prepared in your heart today to come to the worship gathering and love others, give to others, and really stay focused on the task of helping people to experience God’s word and worship him? If not why do you think that is? What can you do to appeal to God for his help?

1 Corinthians 14:24-25	Teaching	Rebuking	Correcting	Training in Righteousness