



❖ MESSAGE NOTES

MARKING THE PATH: Week 5 - Hitting The Mark

For this is the way God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. The one who believes in Him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. ~ John 3:16-18

In everything, treat others as you would want them to treat you, for this fulfills the law and the prophets. ~ Matthew 7:12

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. ~ Matthew 18:21-22

Then Jesus called the crowd, along with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wants to become My follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me and because of the gospel will save it. For what benefit is it for a person to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his life? What can a person give in exchange for his life? For if anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." ~ Mark 8:34-38

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.
~ Matthew 5:3*

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ~ Matthew 5:4

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ~ Matthew 5:5

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. ~ Matthew 5:6

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ~ Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ~ Matthew 5:8

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort provided by love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any affection or mercy, complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose. Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than

yourself. Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. ~ Philippians 2:1-44

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.
~ Matthew 5:9*

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things about you falsely on account of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because your reward is great in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way. ~ Matthew 5:10-12

When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be assembled before Him, and He will separate people one from another like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left. ~ Matthew 25:31-33

*So I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.
~ 1 Corinthians 12:3*

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do what I tell you? ~ Luke 6:46

Then the king will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I was naked and you gave Me clothing, I was sick and you took care of Me, I was in prison and you visited Me." Then the righteous will answer Him, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or naked and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?" And the king will answer them, "I tell you the truth, just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of Mine, you did it for Me." ~ Matthew 25:34-40

Then He will say to those on His left, "Depart from Me, you accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you did not receive Me as a guest, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me." Then they too will answer, "Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not give You whatever you needed?" Then He will answer them, "I tell you the truth, just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for Me." And these will depart into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. ~ Matthew 25:31-45

Open your mouth on behalf of those unable to speak, for the legal rights of all the dying. Open your mouth, judge in righteousness, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. ~ Proverbs 31:8-9

So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect ~ Matthew 5:48

❖ DIVE IN!

◆ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was one thing Pastor G said this week that spoke directly to you?
2. Are you inspired by that to make a decision, make a change, or take some action in your life?

◆ READ: John 3:16-18, Mark 8:34-38, Matthew 5:10-12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways do these scriptures define what it means to "hit the mark" a.k.a. to be successful at what it means to be a Christian?
2. What does it mean to "deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus? Do you see both the beginning cost of following Jesus and the potential ultimate cost of being a follower of Jesus? How do you feel about that? What are the benefits of following Jesus? Do you feel like the benefits outweigh the costs? Why?

◆ READ: Matthew 7:12, Matthew 18:21-22, Philippians 2:1-4, Matthew 5:48

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Scripture commands us many times to love and forgive others. What example did Jesus set for us when it comes to loving people and forgiving people who sinned against Him?
2. Why is it so difficult for us to forgive others when they hurt us? How can we be more motivated to forgive? How does the grace God has shown to us factor into all of this?

◆ READ: Matthew 5:3-12, Matthew 25:31-45, Proverbs 31:8-9, Matthew 5:48

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you struggle with understanding or with practicing any of the beatitudes? Which one(s)? Why?
2. If Jesus were to come back today do you think you are more like the sheep or more like the goats in His parable of the judgment? Why? How can you be more "sheeplike" in your life?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to "be perfect?" Can you be perfect in the way Jesus means it or is He setting you up for an impossible task? Explain your reasons.