

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Welcome
- Update
- Prayer

## **MORE LOVE TO THEE**

**1.** More love to Thee, O Christ,  
More love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make  
On bended knee;  
This is my earnest plea:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee,  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!

**3.** Let sorrow do its work,  
Send grief and pain;  
Sweet are Thy messengers,  
Sweet their refrain,  
When they can sing with me,  
More love, O Christ, to Thee,  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!

**2.** Once earthly joy I craved,  
Sought peace and rest;  
Now Thee alone I seek,  
Give what is best;  
This all my prayer shall be:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee,  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!

**4.** Then shall my latest breath  
Whisper Thy praise;  
This be the parting cry  
My heart shall raise;  
Still all my prayer shall be:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee,  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!

### REVIEW FROM WEEK ONE

- The INVITATION continues to be: Let's FLOURISH together as we learn to cling to Christ and trust that He is better than everything in every way.
- Discipleship Definition: **Pursuing a vibrant relationship with Christ** and help others to do the same.
- Discipleship Mindset:
  1. You are a disciple of Jesus.
  2. You are a disciple maker. (Jesus' disciples make disciples)
  3. The Lord has given you people who are in your "Nets."
  4. Identify and classify these people (P, B, T, H).
  5. How can you specifically help each of these people follow Jesus?

### THE LAW OF THE DISCIPLE MAKER

- If you stop FLOURISHING today you'll stop discipling tomorrow.
- FLOURISH in your walk and FERTILIZE the walk of others
- We must keep the flow of living water into our lives consistent. We do not want to be a faucet that shuts off the flow of living water (Jeremiah 2:5, 12-13).
- We MUST also make sure that we are not a dam or bucket. We must be a conduit of living water; sharing it with others throughout our day. This aspect of discipleship is absolutely essential. We will not be fulfilled as a disciple of Christ unless we are passing on and sharing our daily bread with others.
- We must not be timid or ashamed to do this (2 Timothy 1:7-14).

### DEVOTED vs FLOURISHING // DUTY vs DELIGHT

#### • Devotion

- Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- Picture of the soldiers guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- "Surely a soldier of Christ should not be outdone in their devotion by the soldier of another?" - Pastor Rick
- "Devotion is made up of a million small choices... a million moments of dying to yourself." - Pastor Rick
- "We hang our comforts, our dreams, our lives on the cross (Mark 8:34-36; Luke 9:23; Galatians 2:20)"
- Devotion can come from various places but I want to highlight two of them.

#### • ONE - Duty:

- If devotion comes from duty (I HAVE to do these things to be a good Christian and if I don't do these things, I'm not a good Christian and maybe not even a Christian at all), then your devotion (that stems from duty) can become a noose, a law, a burden, a list of things that have to get done, legalism, and a form of self-righteousness.
- So devotion can come from duty ... which I would argue isn't the best way to become devoted.

#### • TWO - Delight:

- If our devotion flows from a sense of delighting in Jesus, then devoting ourselves to spiritual disciplines is a fruit of delight, not a duty of legalism.

- Devotion stemming from duty can be a legalistic burden. Devotion stemming from delight is refreshing fulfillment.
  - For example: Ministering at ICI when I was at Moody versus my relationship with my girlfriend.
  - One was a duty ... the other was a delight.
- **Delight yourself in God and the devotion will follow.**
    - This is why we are taking our time looking at the life of Jesus on Sunday Mornings.
    - Jesus is pleasing. Jesus is satiating. Jesus is satisfying.
    - In fact, the longer I live the more I discover that He is better than everything in every way.
    - But we must recognize this: sometimes delighting doesn't come without some duty first.
    - Sometimes we aren't delighting in Jesus and so we dutifully go to church, we dutifully read the Bible, we dutifully pray and while performing these duties we learn how delightful Jesus really is.
  - **Flourish: What must be PRESENT in my life for me to flourish spiritually?**
    - What disciplines, activities, etc. must be present in my life for me to be at peak spiritual performance at this stage in my life or in this season of my life?
    - What spiritual nutrients must I be ingesting to be as spiritually healthy as I possibly can?
    - It is absolutely vital that you can answer this question with clarity and confidence so you can have clear direction for your life.
    - Matthew 6:19–20 “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.
    - Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
    - Philippians 3:8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

### **BRAINSTORM:**

What needs to be present in my life in order for me to flourish (use the space provided below)?

Some ideas:

- **A Bible reading plan**
  - Professor Horner's Bible reading plan
  - NT reading plan
  - Reading 3 chapters a day gets you through the NT in 90 days
  - I suggest you begin reading in Matthew, Acts, and Philippians
  - I also suggest reading a chapter in Psalms and Proverbs each day while on this reading plan
  - Read one chapter a day (I don't recommend reading through the Bible this way because you can really get bogged down in the OT if you are not an experienced Bible interpreter).
  - Use this method if you want to focus on one book of the Bible.
  - I recommend reading from different parts of Scripture.
  - Chronological reading of OT combined with a NT reading plan.
  - You can find Chronological reading plans online.
  - Use a good quality Bible
  - [evangelicalbible.com](http://evangelicalbible.com)

# Discipleship Seminar

## WEEK TWO



- ESV Study Bible
- You want to become very familiar with your Bible so you can over time picture where everything is on a page.

- **Journal**

- Use Journal prompts.
- Here are a few that I use.
- Write out verses that stuck out or ministered to you from at least 3 chapters of your daily reading.
- Write out three things I am thankful for.
- Write out one way to show love and appreciation for my wife.
- What are my three top priorities to get done today (Big Three)
- Who are people that I will see today and how can I be intentional with my time with them to help them follow Jesus?
- Write out an ACTS prayer.
- Use a quality journal
- Dingbats (lined, blank, and bullet)
- Full Focus Planner
- Schuyler
- Anything with Tomeo River Paper
- Scripture Memory
- Pick a system that works well for you.
- Find an app (I like "Fighter Verse")
- Navigator Scripture memory System.
- Right now I'm using a Dingbats notebook.
- Spiritual disciplines
- See handout on 20 spiritual disciplines.

- **My current key ingredients to flourish spiritually:**

- Word
- Prayer
- Journaling
- Scripture memory
- Edification Walk
- Meet with others with intentionality (discipleship mindset)
- Set the standard. Raise the bar.
- Get enough sleep
- Healthy accountability
- Healthy diet

- **Before Bed**

- Prayerful self-examination of my day
- Journal about day and start thinking about tomorrow
- Have everything ready to go for in the morning; Bible, highlighters, journal, clothes, coffee, know what I am going to listen to on my edification walk

### **FLOURISH:**

What must be ABSENT from my life for me to flourish spiritually?

- What nets do you need to drop (Mark 1:18)?
- Make a list of nets you could drop immediately without it negatively affecting those around you.
- Giving up watching TV is an example.

# Discipleship Seminar

## WEEK TWO



- Make a list of nets you could drop that would have an impact on the people around you. Prayerfully consider whether or not the Lord is leading you to drop this net.
- Don't think of this in terms of losing but gaining.
  - Trade trash for treasure.
  - What's the difference between trash and treasure? The one lasts, the other doesn't.
  - What does this look like in my life?
  - Avoid busyness at all costs in the evenings. 8 to 5 can be as crazy as they need to be but my evenings need to be quiet.
  - I do not do well with chaos and I do not want my children to be addicted to a crazy, chaotic, busy lifestyle. I want to teach and model for them a healthy work, rest balance.
  - Watch as little TV as possible - and NO cable news.
  - No social media
  - Limit YouTube
  - Dedicated times with no phone during the day

### **HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND THE CURRENCY OF YOUR LIFE?**

- What are you buying with your time?
- What are you buying with each hour, each half hour, each quarter hour of your life?

### **FULL THROTTLE, STEADY EDDY, BARE BONES**

- Explain this exercise
- It's impossible to be at full throttle all of the time.
  - We know we should be doing something so we do the bare minimum to ease our guilt.

### **MORE LOVE TO THEE**

- Elizabeth Payton Prentiss (1818-1878)
- She was a native of Maine, and was described as a "bright-eyed, little woman, with a keen sense of humor, who cared more to shine in her own happy household than in a wide circle of society."
- She had a gift for both prose and poetry.
- She wrote books, one of which - *Stepping Heavenward* - sold over 200,000 copies in the U.S. alone.
- For much of her life she lived the life of a near invalid, her body often wracked with pain. It was during these times that she had to refocus her understanding of her own value and worth from doing to being:
- "I see now that to live for God, whether one is allowed the ability to be actively useful or not, is a great thing, and that it is a wonderful mercy to be allowed even to suffer, if thereby one can glorify Him."
- The Hymn "More Love to Thee" emerged out of a time of personal tragedy. It was written after the Prentisses lost a child ... and shortly thereafter a second child.
- Through her grief she confided in her diary, "Empty hands, a worn-out, exhausted body, and unutterable longings to flee from a world that has so many sharp experiences."
- Prentiss completed the four stanzas of her hymn in a single evening, but never showed it to anyone for 13 years. Finally, in 1869 the poem appeared in leaflet form and in 1870 was published for the first time in a hymnal.
- On one occasion, Prentiss wrote, "To love Christ more is the deepest need, the constant cry of the soul ... out in the woods, and on my bed, and out driving, when I am happy and busy, and when I am sad and idle, the whisper keeps going up for more love, more love, more love!"
- To me, the song is an invitation to flourish.