

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE DISCIPLINES OF DARING

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Part 3 of a 31 Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Faith, Fear, Wisdom, Perseverance

Introduction to the Text;

Matthew 28:18-20

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. :19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, :20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

There is a Very Real and Actual War

that's underway as I speak. This war is nearly, almost 100% invisible to the human eye but the effects of this war is always manifest in this physical world of ours...

Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. :11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. :12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

We are not only called to be engaged in this very real war – we're commanded to be brave and bold as we go about it.

The Book of Joshua is a Great Lesson on Spiritual Exploits

Joshua 1:5

No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. :6 Be strong and of good courage,

Joshua 1:7

Only be strong and very courageous,

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:18

...Only be strong and of good courage.”

Joshua Went Forth with The Disciplines of Daring in Action

The message this evening

Is especially appropriate for the new believer.

avoid at all costs what far too many Christians do,

They fail to enter into all that God has for them.

Those verses in Joshua really don't mean much to the complacent, recreational Christian. But those of you who want to see God move in your life - - then those kind of verses become vitamins to your soul.

Daring: (Noah Webster 1828)

(1) Having a sufficient enough of courage to meet a challenge. To be fearless, adventurous, brave, stout hearted. (2) Audacious, defying, heaven-daring, a courage that comes from The Heavenly Source.

**“Daring can mean the difference between
defeat by default and the delight of duty well done !**

Matthew 25:21

His lord said to him, “Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

THE DISCIPLINES OF DARING

1.) Daring the weaknesses in your life

we are all plagued with “internal struggles & weaknesses” that seek to sideline our Christianity – *but that's a fatal logic.*

Philippians 3:3-10

For we are the circumcision, who **worship** God in the Spirit, **rejoice** in Christ Jesus, and have **no confidence** in the flesh, :4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: :5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; :6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. :7 **But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.** :8 **Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ** :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; :10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. :9 And He said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. :10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Was it a Rape / An Accident / An Injury / Being Made Fun Of / Homeless / Fearful / Not So Smart / Not So Pretty / No So Cool ?

DARING THE WEAKNESSES IN YOUR LIFE

1a.) Daring to go on with Jesus

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; :10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; :11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; :12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

But as it is written: “*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*” :10 But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even **greater things than these**, because I am going to the Father.

I want you to be able to say tonight that;
*you're living a **life** that's **bigger than you are** !*

I want you to be able to say tonight that;
*you're living a **Christianity** that's **bigger than you are** !*

I want you to be able to say tonight that;
*you're living a **ministry** that's **bigger than you are** !*

DARING THE WEAKNESSES IN YOUR LIFE

1b.) Daring to see the new you

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things** have become new.

“who are you” – in Jesus charts now ?

Ephesians 2:10

For we are **His workmanship**, created **in Christ Jesus** for good works, which **God prepared** beforehand that we should **walk in them**.

Q:

What do you see needing to be done around here?

On a large, body scale – there is the massive need of the church.
The east wing, children's ministry project. – that's a massive scale need.
(many of us here will work together to get this job done)

On a lesser, body scale – there's the ministries here.
Evangelism training, men & women's ministries., youth and college....
(many of us here will work together to get that job done)

On a smaller, body scale – there's the plant watering ministry, very needed.
People love to sit and listen to the water, to the birds and look at the plants
(many of us here will work together to get this job done)

On the biggest, body scale – there are the various prayer meetings.
People who are either in real need or desire to see the Lord act will come.
(many of us here will work together to get this done)

The New You in Jesus Christ Is Created to Serve – It's Then That Jesus Takes You Deeper into Him...

if you're a new Christian
or you're wanting to get serious about Jesus Christ, then
Be Daring to go on with Jesus / Be Daring to see the new you

DARING THE WEAKNESSES IN YOUR LIFE

1c.) Daring to not be like most

Daniel 11:32b

the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out **great exploits**.

as the church was growing and influencing its world

Acts 17:6

"...they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out saying,
"These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.

if you're a **mom** – be an on fire spirit-filled **mom** !!!
if you're a teacher – be an on fire spirit-filled teacher!!!
if you're a **contractor** – be an on fire spirit-filled **contractor**!!!
if you're a gardener – be an on fire spirit-filled gardener!!!

It's pretty much impossible to be a lame-duck Christian
when the Bible says...

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

THE DISCIPLINES OF DARING

DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

2.) Daring the opportunities in your life

Remember Joshua?

He knew way back in **Numbers 13** that the land to which the Lord was leading them had giants in it. – **IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

But the faithless & fearful said...

Numbers 13:33-14:1

No, we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers ***in our own sight***, and so we were ***in their sight***." 14:1 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.

The challenges that we have in our lives are not for us to lose but for us to win and to advance the cause of Jesus Christ...

Numbers 14:6-9

But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; :7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. :8 If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, "a land which flows with milk and honey.' :9 Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

DARING THE OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR LIFE

2a.) Daring to love Him

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! :5 You shall **love** the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Why should I love Him ?

Seems like a normal question until you stop and think about it for a while.

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you.

How do I love Him ?

Is there any way that I can show the Lord how much I appreciate Him?

John 15:10

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

DARING THE OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR LIFE

2b.) Daring to obey Him

Here's The Million Dollar Bit of Advice: - *don't miss it*

Be very careful to "**walk through the door**" that Jesus Christ opens... its way easier when God opens the door vs. you running headfirst into it.

"but I felt like the Lord might have said"

"but I thought it would be the right thing to do"

"but all my friends told me that I should be a pastor"

Revelation 3:7

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is Holy, He who is True, 'He who has the key of David, **He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens**":

alot of people have ambition and think it's a spiritual calling...

if you're a new Christian

or you're wanting to get serious about Jesus Christ, then...

Be Daring to love Him / Be Daring to obey Him

DARING THE OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR LIFE

2c.) Daring to trust Him

Trust Him to;

Work on your **marriage**, husband and wife.

With that **class project** that should have Jesus in it.

((*He can do impossible things for us and with us*))

Psalm 78:12-16

Marvelous things He did in the sight of their fathers, In the land of Egypt, *in* the field of Zoan. :13 He divided the sea and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap. :14 In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, And all the night with a light of fire. :15 He split the rocks in the wilderness, And gave *them* drink in abundance like the depths. :16 He also brought streams out of the rock, And caused waters to run down like rivers

“so Lord I’m going to decide now to trust you with my money, kids, health, nation...”

THE DISCIPLINES OF DARING

3.) Daring **the future** for your life

I want to ask you a question. Where do you see yourself serving this body of believers within 6 months?

Christian: your mission is to (1) pray (2) step out (3) and serve the local body of believers – be doing the “daring” ministry that the Lord has for you !

DARING THE FUTURE FOR YOUR LIFE

3a.) Daring about what’s coming next

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. :29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

John 13:19

Now I tell you **before it comes to pass**, that when it does, you will believe that I am *He*.

DARING THE FUTURE FOR YOUR LIFE

3b.) Daring about His return

do you all know that Jesus Christ could come for the church at any moment now?

Matthew 24:44

Therefore you also **be ready**, (precondition) for the Son of Man is **coming** (warning) at an hour you do **not expect**. (imminent)

1 Corinthians 15:50-52

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. :51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - - :52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. :14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. :15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. :16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. :17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. :18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

if you're a new Christian
or you're wanting to get serious about Jesus Christ, then...

Be Daring about what's coming next / Be Daring about His return

DARING THE FUTURE FOR YOUR LIFE

3c.) Daring about the outcome

Noah was daring about the outcome
Abraham was daring about the outcome
Moses was daring about the outcome
David was daring about the outcome
Daniel was daring about the outcome
Joshua was daring about the outcome
Rahab was daring about the outcome
Paul was daring about the outcome
The apostles were daring about the outcome
Christians are daring about the outcome

2 Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; :11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jude 22-24 – Amplified Version

Have mercy on those who doubt; 23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; Others show mercy while having fear - hating even their garments which are stained by their fleshly conduct. 24 *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy.*

John 10:27-30

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. :28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. :29 My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. :30 I and My Father are one."

John 6:37

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Give The Invitation & Challenge

Church, we're going to pray

Christians, lets pray.

- (1) Pray that those who are lost right now will be found.
- (2) Pray that those who are wayward will come back home to Christ right now and
- (3) pray that the Lord would receive our worship and gratitude and praise in our tithes and offerings to Him...

End of Study
