

Living According to God's Design**3rd August 08**

Well this is the last installment in the series

S Living According to God's Design

We have covered a lot of ground in the 15 sessions together.

Today I would like to reflect on some of the things that grabbed me as I shared with you.

Let me take you back to the first week.

S 1 Designed for Mission

Read Matt 3: 3

S *Matthew 3:[3] This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:*

*"A voice of one calling in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.' "*

That was John's role

To Prepare the way for the Lord

To Make straight paths for him

That's our role too.

In Luke's account we have a fuller quote from Isaiah's prophecy and we see that

S *[5] Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
[6] And all mankind will see God's salvation.' "*

There are genuine obstacles in the way of people finding Jesus that is why it is crucial for you and me to prepare the ground.

God is passionate about people who are not in his kingdom yet.

He requires that we share the same passion.

As you know I have a life mission

S To love people into the kingdom of God & encourage them to love Jesus & others more each day

But you can only love people if you get close to them.

As the salt of the earth ... our calling is to take our Jesus soaked lives into our offices, schools, hospitals, wherever our work place is.

Erwin McManus writing in his book Seizing Your Divine Moment says

S *One of the most asked questions about our congregation is, How are we able to mobilise so many people to overseas mission?*

S *It's really pretty easy to explain. If your church is full of members, you get an occasional missionary. If your church is full of missionaries, the rest is just about geography. Most churches don't send missionaries because they don't have any.*

I don't know what kind of church you want to belong to but I need to say to you that I long for this church to be a missionary church ... where each of us long for others to discover what we have. A love that is so deep, so wide, so liberating.

Guys our hearts need to burst with the joy of sharing this news

S 2 Designed in His Image

The Beatitudes give us clues to the Character God wants us to resemble

Please turn to

Matthew 5:3-12 (ANIV)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

[5] Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

[6] Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

[7] Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

[8] Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

[9] Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

[10] Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. [12] Rejoice and be glad, because great is

your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John White writes,

S *The Crying need today is for people of faith to live faithfully.*

But

S *Bill Hull writes, Christians' use of money, priorities of time, attitudes about work and leisure, divorce and remarriage, increasingly reflect culture rather than Scripture. Therefore, the church is weak in skills and weak in character.*

I am really worried about this.

I showed you the following images

S **Notre Dame**

S **The Cube**

S **The church in the Cube**

Notre Dame 110 feet high

The Cube 110m High

Designed deliberately so that the Cathedral could fit inside! The idea is that That Christian thought is dwarfed by secular thought.

The reality for each of us is that our thinking will be shaped by society unless we soak ourselves in His word. As we soak in His Word we then need to obey what he asks.

God's Word

Rick Warren writes

S *God doesn't owe you an explanation or reason for everything he asks you to do. Understanding can wait, but obedience can't. Instant obedience will teach you more about God than a lifetime of Bible discussions. In fact, you will never understand some commands until you obey them first. Obedience unlocks understanding.*

S *Often we try to offer God partial obedience. We want to pick and choose the commands we obey. We make a list of the commands we like and obey those while ignoring the ones we think are unreasonable, difficult, expensive, or unpopular. I'll attend church but I won't tithe. I'll read my Bible but won't forgive the person who hurt me. Yet partial obedience is disobedience.*

S *Wholehearted obedience is done joyfully, with enthusiasm. The Bible says, "Obey him gladly." This is the attitude of David: "Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll wholeheartedly obey." The Purpose Driven Life, p.72*

OK that's me done ... the question I must ask each of us is what are we going to do about this?
Can I leave you with?

TODAY

By: Joseph J. Mazzella

S People always love to talk about yesterdays and people always love to dream about tomorrow, but the truth is that life can only be lived today.

S Yesterdays can give us wonderful memories and tomorrow can give us great hopes, but today is where we are. Today is where we live.

Today is where we live. Today is where we make the tough choices.