

Sermon Study - March 6, 2016 - Barabbas Road Church

Message Title:

A Good Soldier

Main Theme:

Christianity is not a call to comfort and convenience but a call to fulfill your commission.

Opening Discussion Questions:

What makes us prone to view the christian life as more of a playground than a battleship? A cruise ship, more than a battleship?

- **possible answer:** *staying out of the word.*
 - If we stay out of the Word of God, which tells us what the Christian Life is and looks like then we will be prone to capitulate to the cultural christianity that is around us. We will be taken captive by the thoughts and opinions of the commercials, advertisements and philosophies that tell us to have your best life now, its all about you, YOLO.
- **possible answer:** *staying out of the fellowship.*
 - seeing other soldiers reminds us that we are in a battle.

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-13

Context

Does knowing that Paul was writing this while sitting in a dark, dank, disgusting dungeon change how you view the book of 2 Timothy?

If you were in that same situation would you be angry at God? Would you be complaining about your plight? Or would you be content, focused on passing on sound doctrine to those that you have poured your life into? Would you be able to stay rational when you talked with them? Would you be able to practice self-control? Would you be able to stay focused and take joy in being able to give your fellow prisoners the gospel? Do you find that your joy in the Lord ebbs and flows with the circumstances that you are in?

Verses 1-2: MARCHING ORDERS

V1.

Where do we get the strength in order to make disciples?

A: the grace that is in Christ

What was the cost for you to be able to receive such strength?

A: death of Christ

A supernatural mission requires supernatural strength

In order to receive strength we need to be tethered to the source of that strength.

(remember the phone chord analogy)

In John 15:5 Jesus says “I am the vine, you are the branches, whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing” Professor Rohm wrote an amazing word study on this word abide, its on the website you should absolutely read it. He writes in the study that abiding means “total and continual reliance upon” “Just as the physical branch must be uninterruptedly connected and dependent upon the vine or it will not produce fruit, so the believer must abide in Christ”

How do we keep a strong connection to the source of our strength?

A: Walk by The Spirit, read His Word, talk to Him through Prayer.

V2.

What are our Marching Orders?

A. Make Disciples

If we are to entrust truth to other people, what does that imply?

A. We need know truth ourselves.

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus tells us we need to **teach** others to **observe** all that he has commanded us. We are not simply to pass on truth but to pass on how to be obedient to that truth through our actions.

How are you able to show someone obedience to truth?

A: You need to have them be a part of your life, they need to see you live it out.

Are you currently investing truth and practice into the life of another believer?
If not, pray that God would give you the courage to approach someone

Remember, **You are the Plan.**

Verses 3 - 7: MISSION FIELD

How are these verses different than the health, wealth and prosperity (HWP) life promised in the HWP gospel?

A: They are the complete opposite.

What causes the christian life to be filled with suffering and difficulty?

A: We are dealing with truth and righteousness in a world that is diametrically opposed to it. We are throwing ice on a bonfire.

Who are we, good christian soldiers to be focused on pleasing?

A: Christ

Make a list of distractions in your life that pull your focus away from pleasing Christ? That pull you away from making disciples.

(spend some time here, get a pencil and paper, write it on your phone, look at your schedule and where you invest most of your time talents and treasures?)

*remember, we are not living for the here and now, we are living in obedience focused on the life to come

VERSES 8-13: MOTIVATION

What were the four motivations from the text that will encourage you to make disciples.

A: The Risen Lord, The Word, The Saints, The faithfulness of God.

The Risen Lord

The word "remember" is better translated "continually remember"

What are ways that we can constantly bring the Risen Lord to our memory every day?

A: stay in the bible, preach the gospel to ourselves daily, prayer, play hymns during our morning routine, listen to sermons on our commutes etc...

How does knowing that Christ is risen and coming back again motivate you to endure the hardship that this world brings?

A: (there are a lot) It proves he conquered death so that we need not fear death (what are some more?)

The Word

How does knowing that the Word is not bound, cannot be bound, nor ever will be bound, spur you on to endure suffering in order to make disciples?

A: (there are a lot)

-You cant fail, you cant do something that will stop biblical truth from going forward

- We need not fear the worlds opposition to the truth because they wont stop it, communism cant stop it, ISIS cant stop it.

The Saints

Read Philippians 1:12-14

What impact does our reaction to suffering have on our fellow brothers and sisters?

A: It encourages them, gives them confidence, gives them boldness to speak the Word.

Share a time when you heard of a Christian brother or sister who remained steadfast under suffering or persecution and how it impacted your own life. (encourage the group to purchase “Foxe’s Book of the Martyrs”

The Faithfulness of God

Read Romans 8:31-39

What can separate you from the love of Christ?

A: nothing

How does that spur you on to make disciples in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation?